JUMP COMICS

巻ノ二十一

NARUTO

-ナルト-

岸本斉史

岸本斉史

There are so many movie trilogies and series these days, like *The Matrix*, *The Lord of the Rings*, *Harry Potter*, etc. It gladdens me that my favorite film worlds continue to live on.

—*Masashi Kishimoto, 2004*

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** (Mechanism). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.

JUMP COMICS

NARUTO

-ナルト-

巻ノ一

許せない!!

岸本斉史
（きしもとまさし）

主な登場人物

音の四人衆

Credits: Our Scanlation Group, The Colored Council,
Located at ColoredManga.com OR manhwas.com forum.
Discord Links included there.
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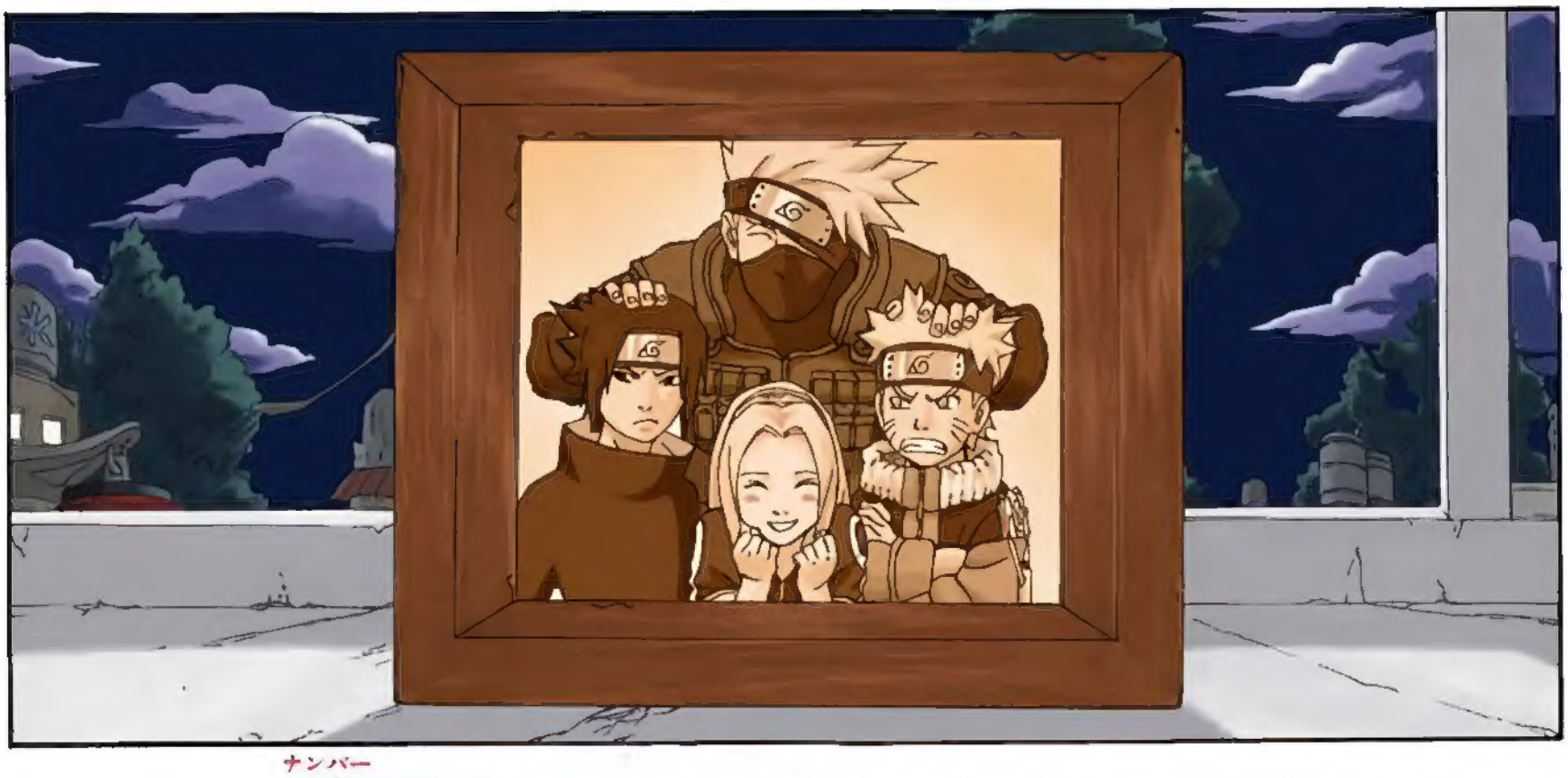

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181 : THE BATTLE BEGINS...!!

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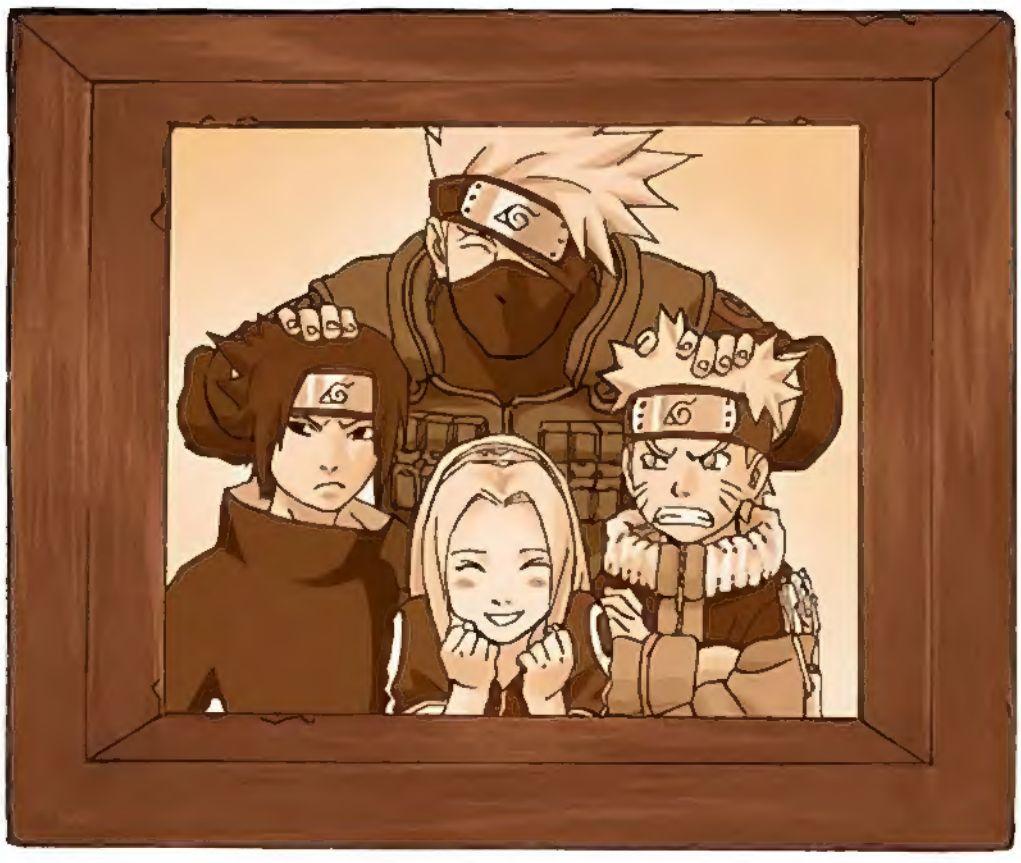
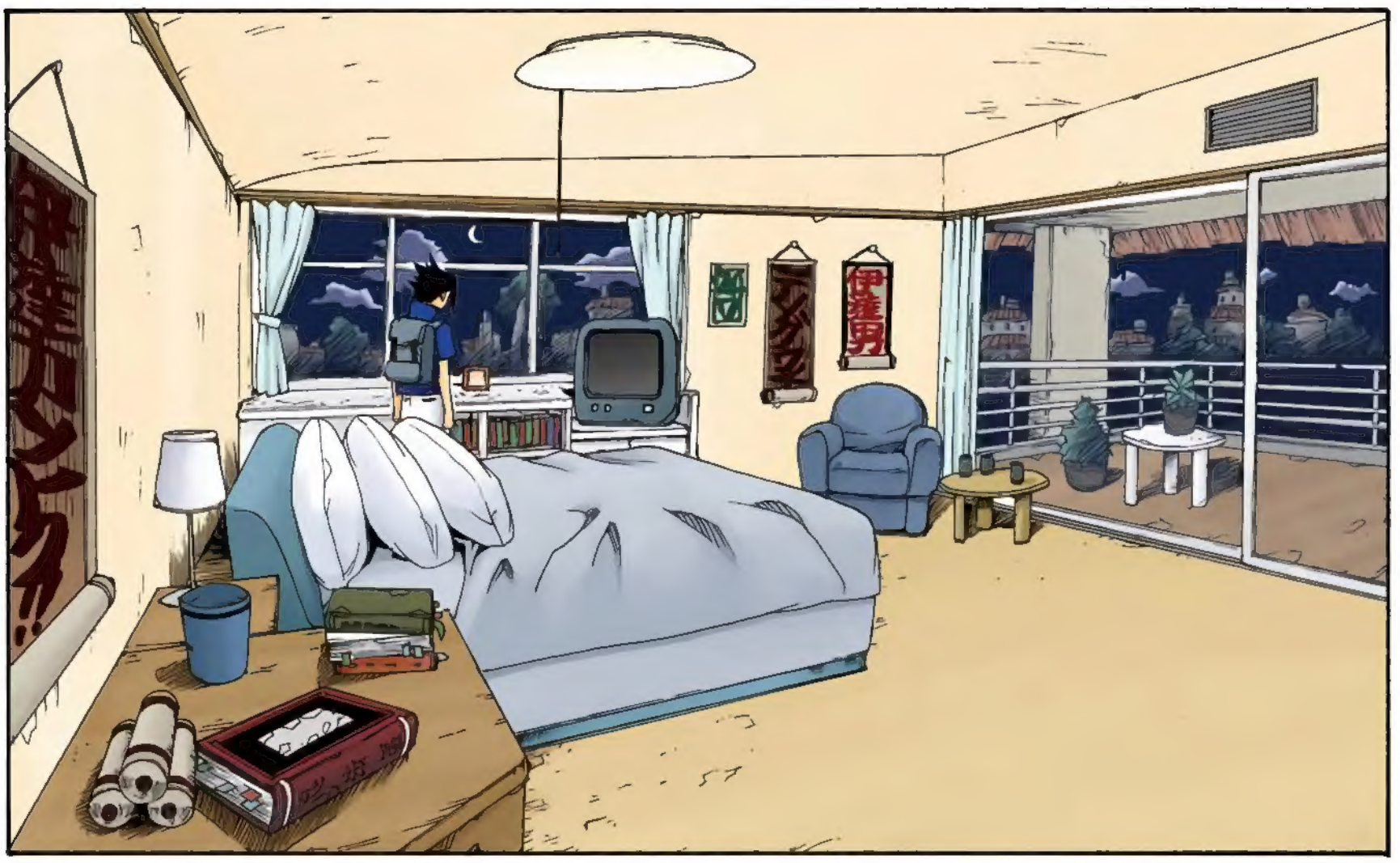
181
THE BATTLE BEGINS...!!

NARUTO
-ナルト-

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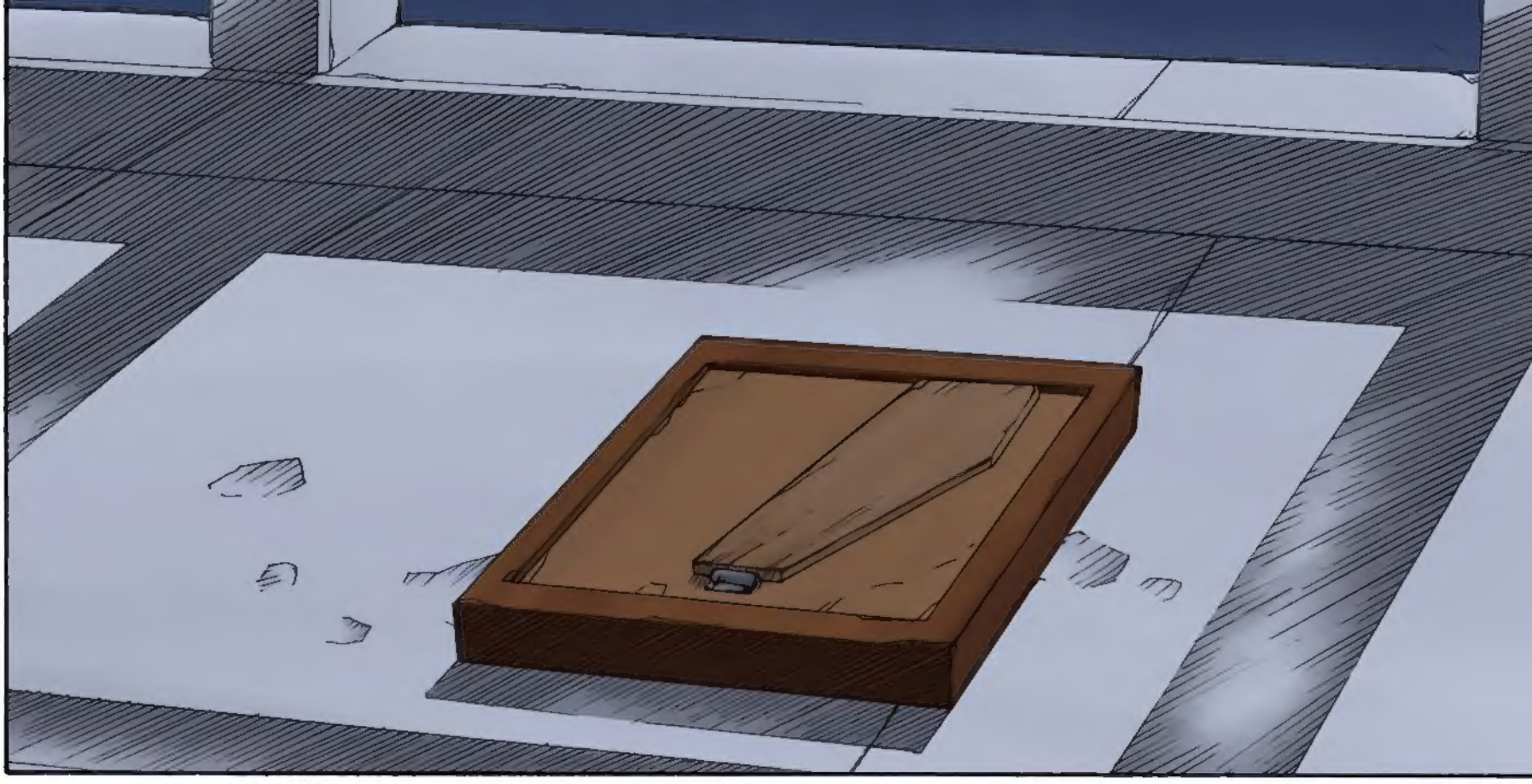

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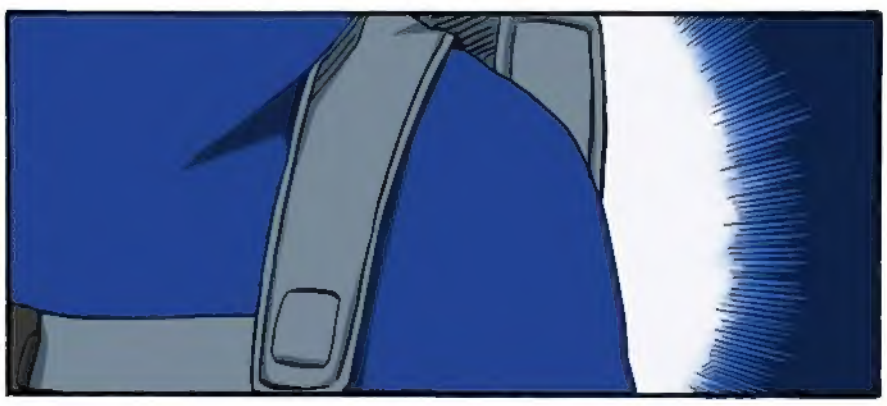

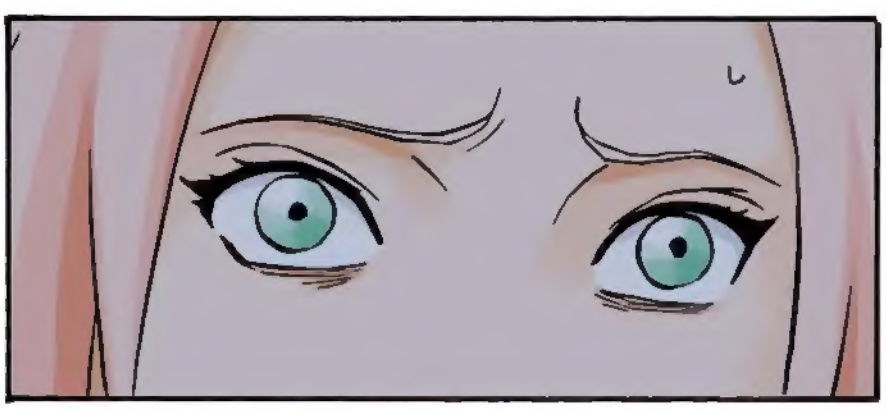

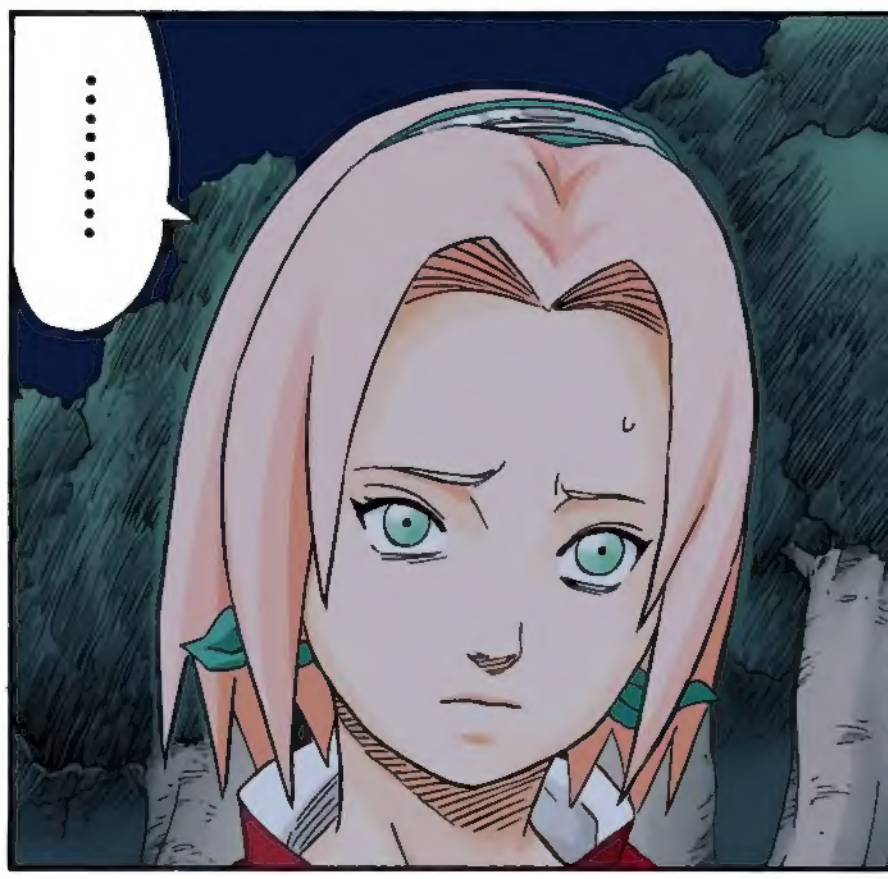
……

LOREM IPSUM

IT'S THE DEAD OF NIGHT... WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?

SO I'VE BEEN KEEPING WATCH.

THIS ROAD IS THE ONLY WAY OUT OF THE VILLAGE.

JUST GO TO BED.

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.....

WHY DON'T YOU EVER TELL ME ANY-THING?

WHY DO YOU HAVE TO BE SO SILENT? WHY CAN'T YOU JUST... LET ME IN?

LIKE I SAID, MY BUSINESS IS NONE OF YOURS.

JUST LEAVE ME ALONE.

.....

.....

.....

.....

YOU ALWAYS ACT LIKE I'M BUGGING YOU...

BUT REMEM-BER...

IT WAS RIGHT HERE. YOU WERE WITH ME, ALONE, THE FIRST TIME... REMEMBER HOW YOU BLEW UP AT ME?

BACK WHEN WE BECAME GENIN... THE DAY THEY ANNOUNCED OUR THREE-MAN CELL...

...WHA... WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU ALL OF A SUDDEN?

BEING SCOLDED BY YOUR FOLKS DOESN'T EVEN COMPARE!

WHAT ?

THAT, AND LONELY.

.....

YOU...

.....

MAKE ME SICK!

NO, I DON'T REMEM-BER THAT...

.....

.....!

YOU AND ME... NARUTO AND MASTER KAKASHI...

BUT THAT'S WHEN IT STARTED, SASUKE.

.....

WELL, IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.

HEH... OF COURSE.

IT WAS ROUGH, SOMETIMES... AND THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD CALL IT EASY, BUT...

WHEN YOU GET DOWN TO IT...

THE FOUR OF US, ON SO MANY MISSIONS.

.....

IT WAS FUN.

THAT WON'T MAKE ANYONE HAPPY.

NOT YOU, SASUKE...

SASUKE... I KNOW THE DEAL WITH YOUR CLAN.

BUT REVENGE, JUST FOR ITS OWN SAKE...

.....

!?

I KNEW IT.

NOT ME EITHER...

SOMETIMES I TOLD MYSELF OUR PATHS ALL LED TO THE SAME PLACE.

YEAH, WE ALL WORKED TOGETHER FOR A WHILE.

I'M NOT LIKE YOU PEOPLE...

I'M ON A DIFFERENT PATH FROM THE REST OF YOU.

THAT'S ALL I'VE LIVED FOR.

MAYBE WE WERE A TEAM, ONCE. BUT NOW, I CHOOSE REVENGE.

.....

I CAN NEVER BE LIKE YOU OR NARUTO.

BUT SASUKE, IF I LOSE YOU, I...

I'VE... I HAVE FAMILY, AND FRIENDS...

REMEMBER HOW YOU SHOWED ME WHAT IT MEANS TO BE LONELY?!

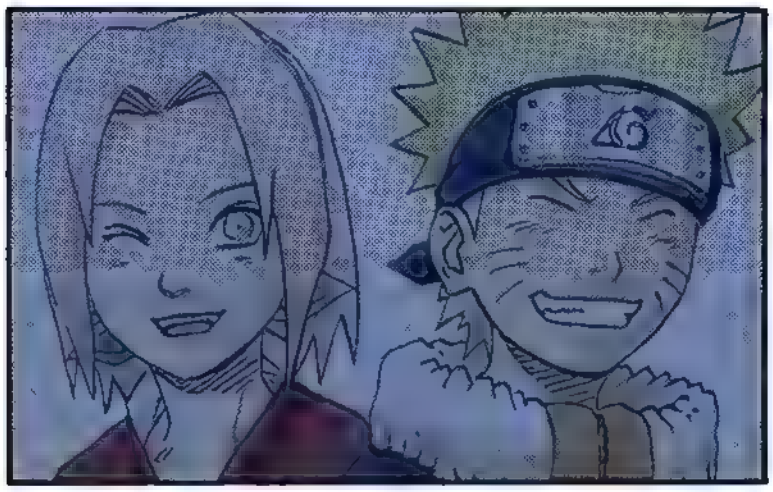
WELL, NOW I UNDERSTAND. IT'S ALL PAINFULLY CLEAR TO ME.

SO THAT'S IT, YOU'RE CHOOSING THE LONELY PATH?

.....

I WILL BE VERY LONELY.

I'LL BE...



THEY'RE JUST DIFFERENT IS ALL.

WE'RE EACH STARTING OFF ON A NEW PATH...

I'M SO IN LOVE WITH YOU THAT I CAN'T EVEN STAND IT! SASUKE!

I'M...

.....!

JUST, PLEASE ...

I'LL DO ANY-THING FOR YOU, SASUKE!

PLEASE, PLEASE DON'T GO!

STAY WITH ME, AND I'LL NEVER LET YOU REGRET IT!

WE'LL HAVE FUN EVERY DAY AND... AND YOU'LL BE HAPPY! I'LL MAKE SURE OF IT!

I MEAN, I'LL MANAGE IT SOMEHOW, SO...

I'LL EVEN HELP YOU TAKE REVENGE!

HIC

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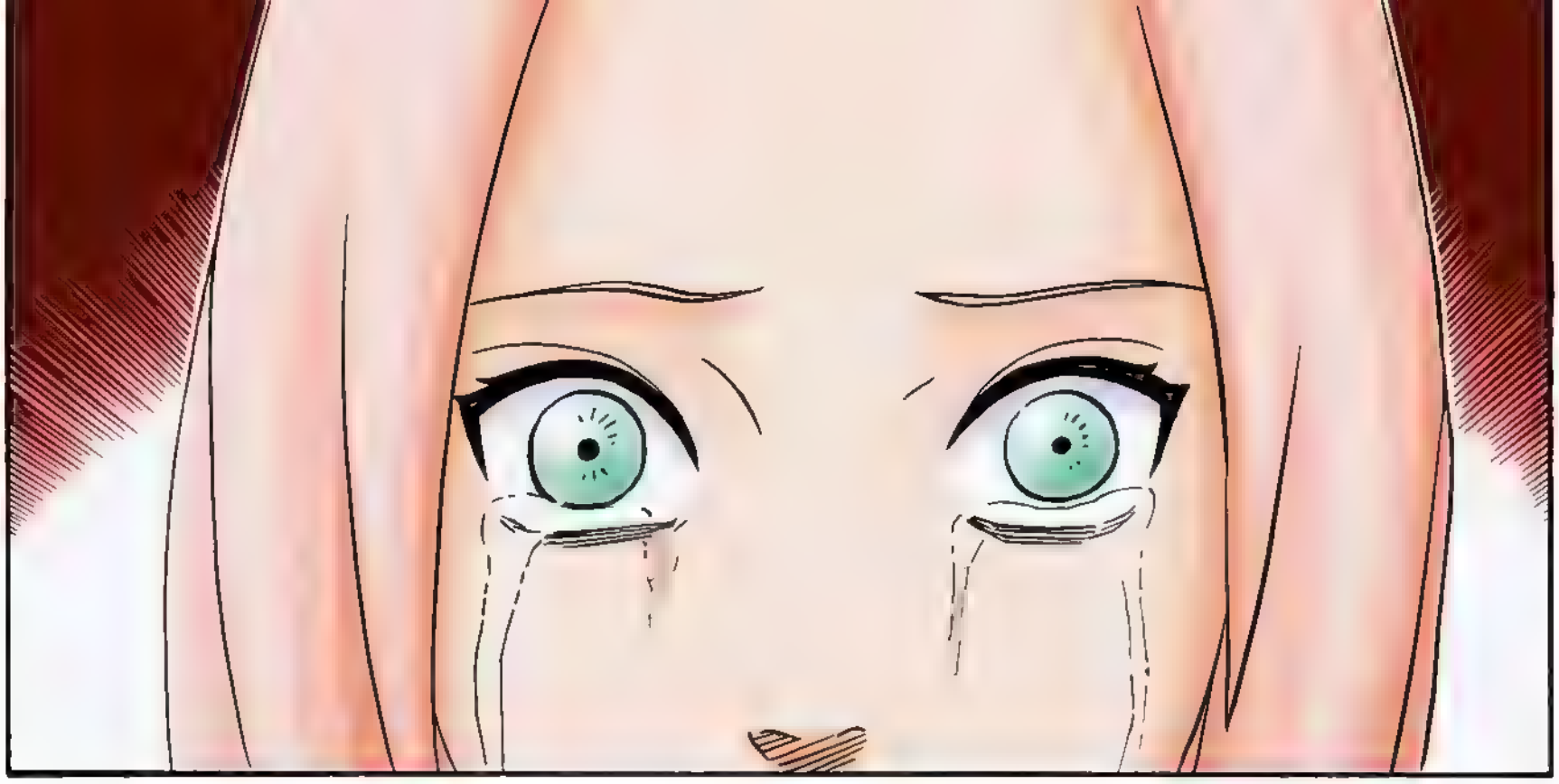
IF YOU CAN'T, THEN... MAYBE I CAN GO WITH YOU?

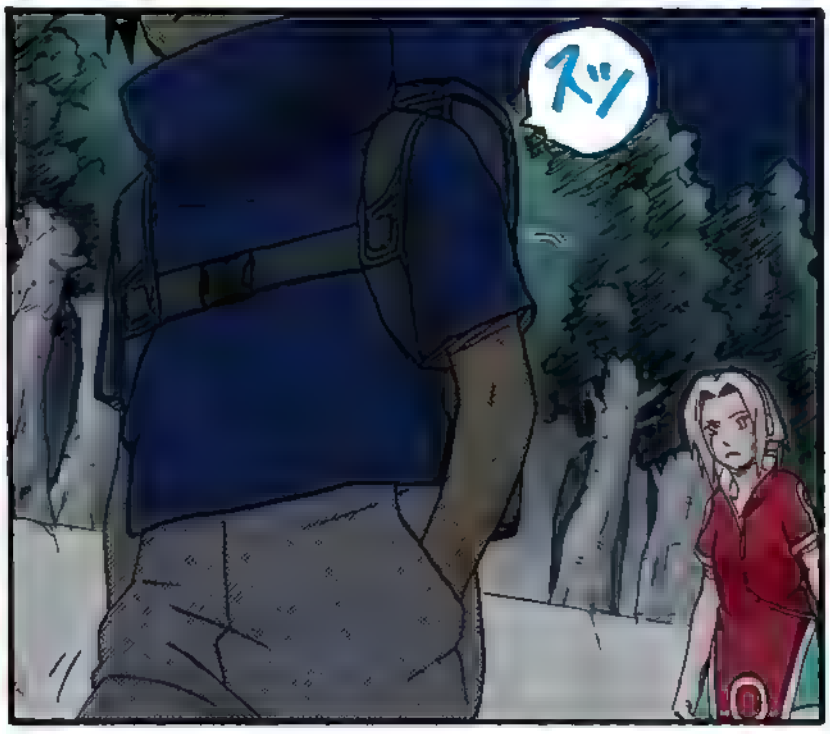
SO PLEASE ...

STAY WITH ME.

YOU...
...WILL NEVER CHANGE.



DON'T YOU LEAVE ME!!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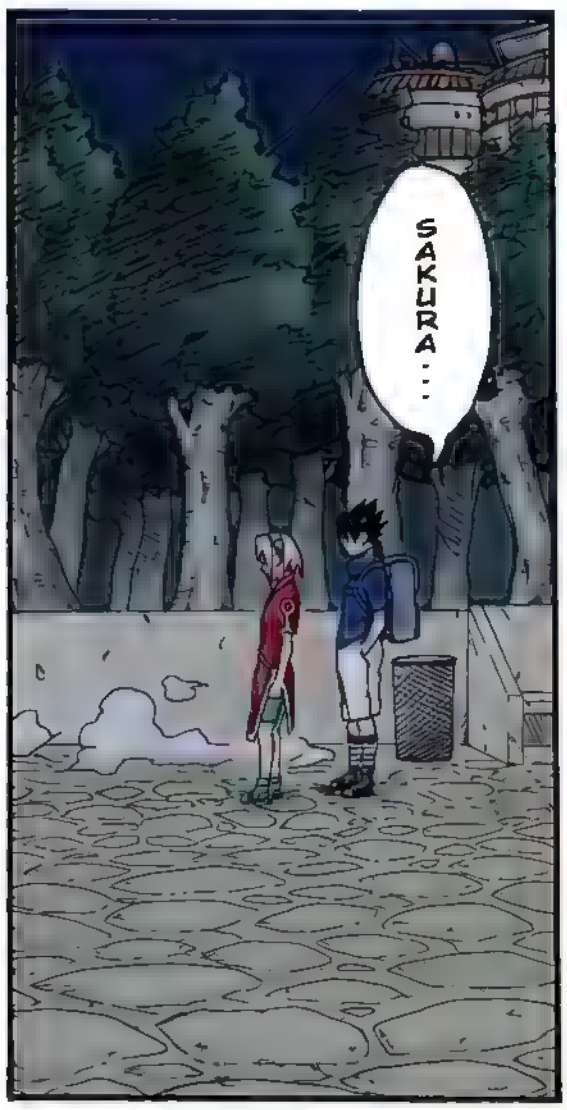
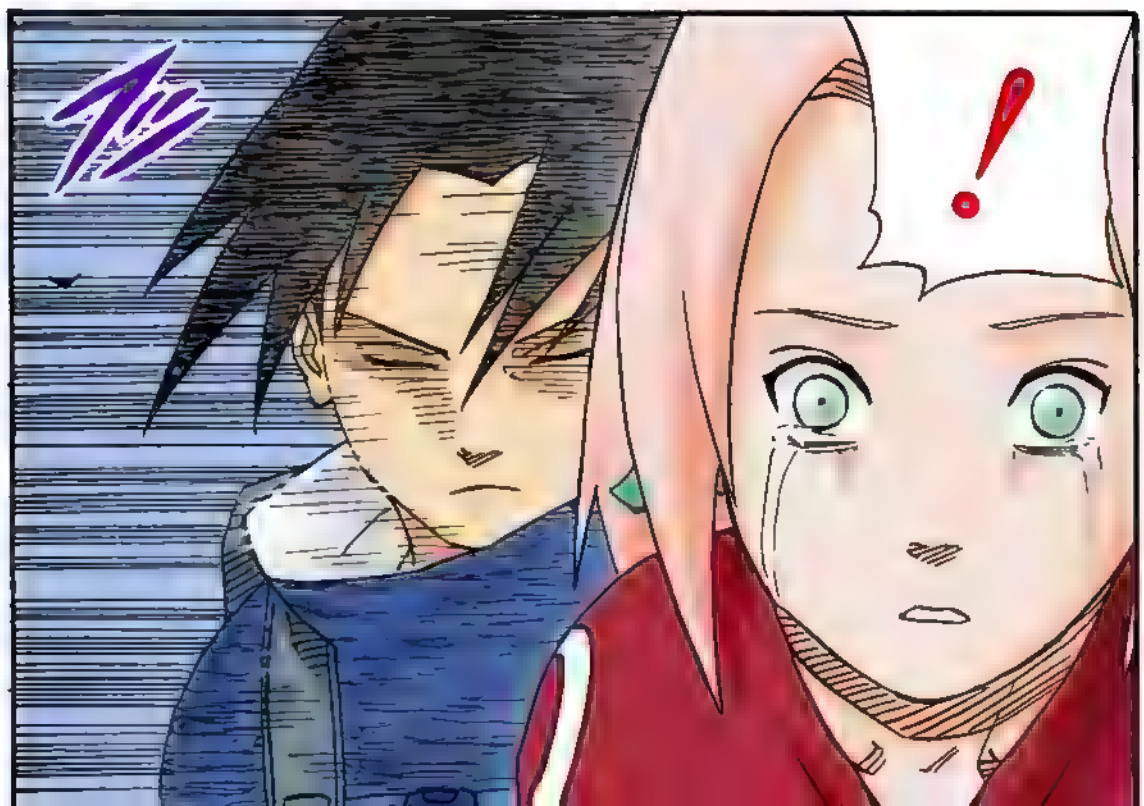

SAKURA...

ONE MORE STEP AND I'LL SCREAM...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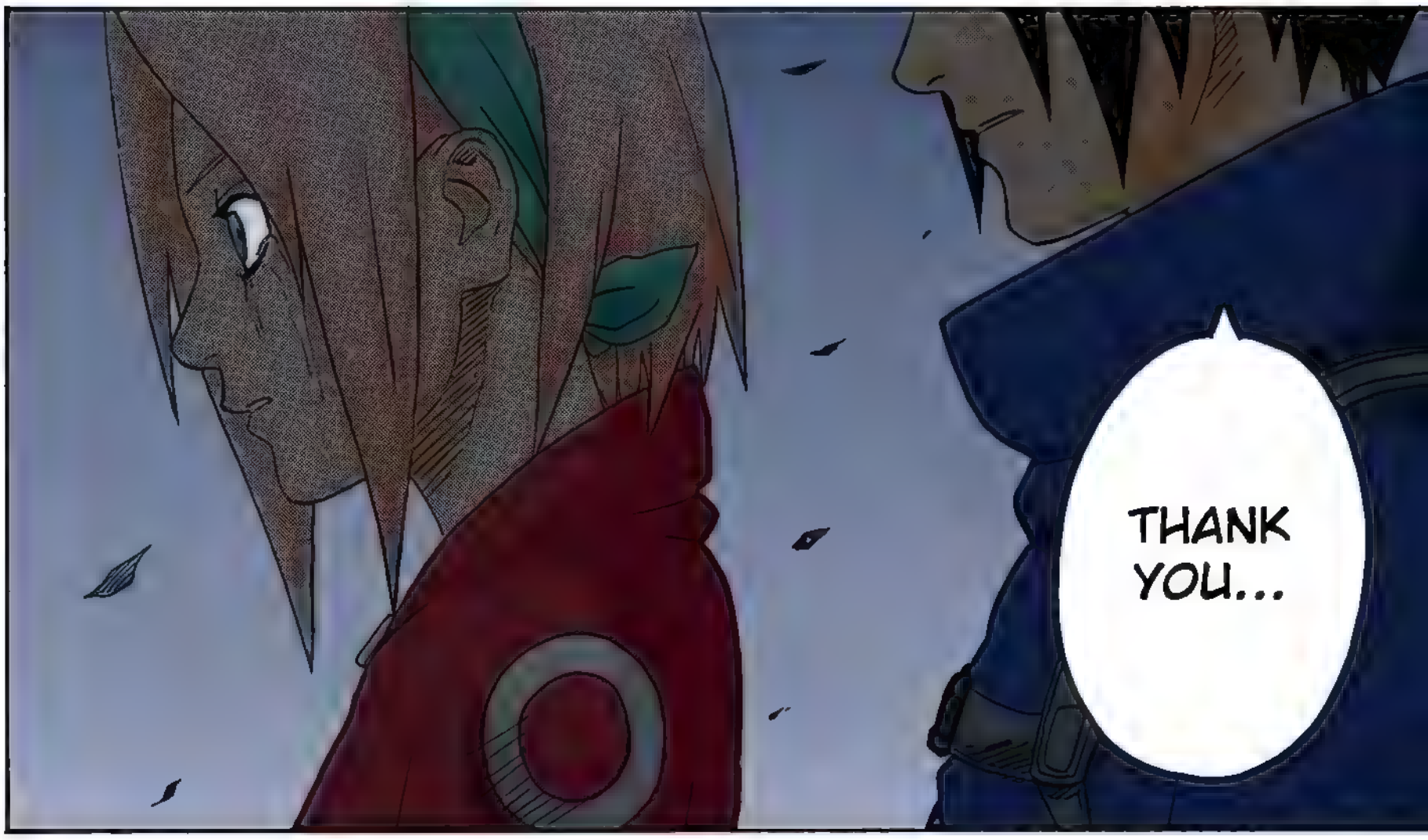
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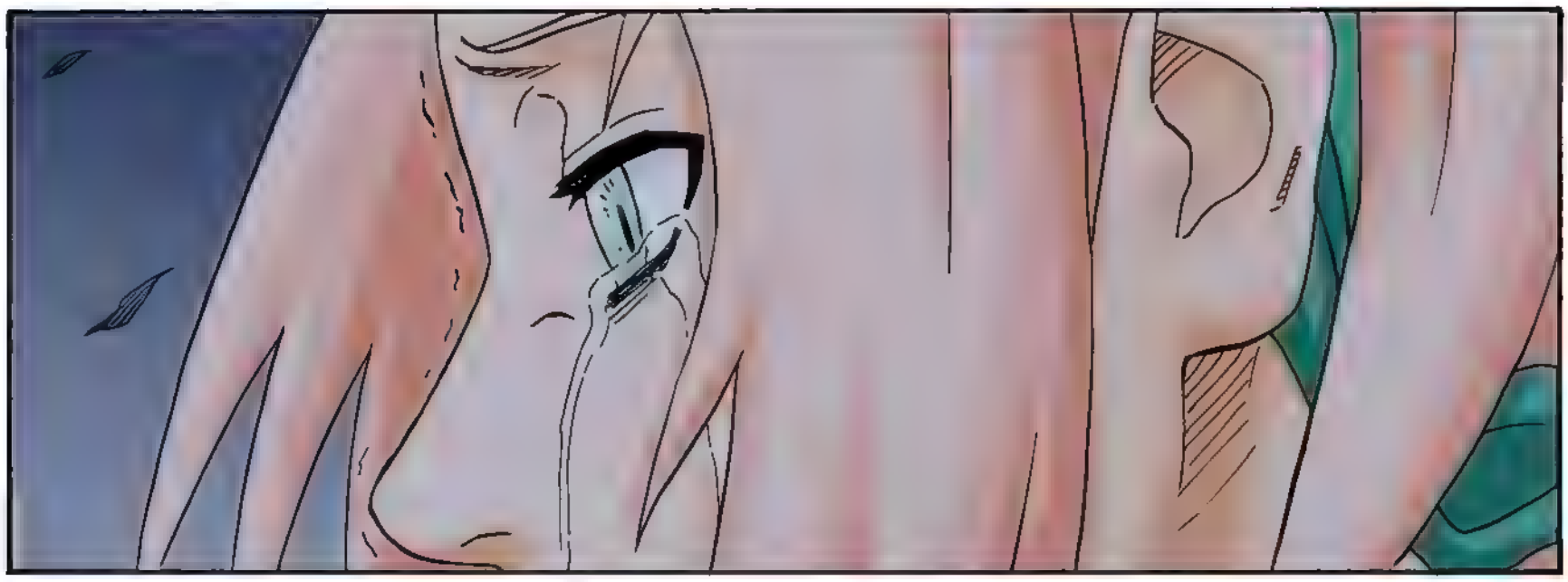

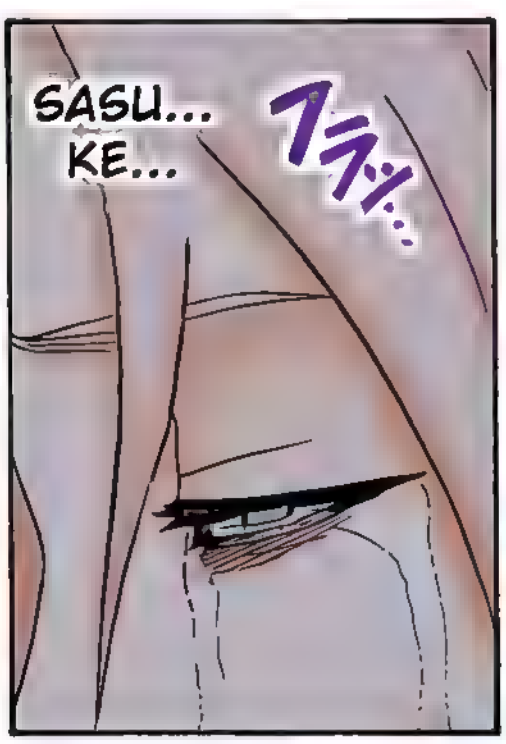
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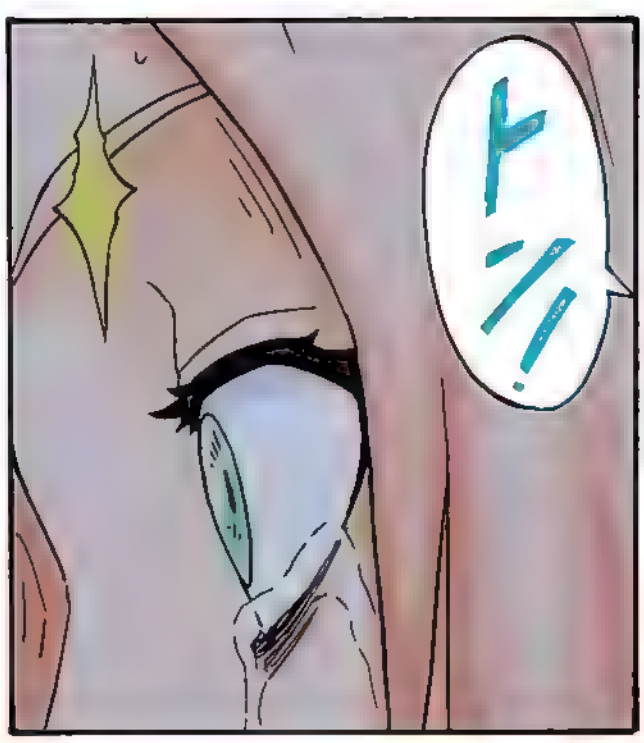

ﾄｰﾁｬﾝ!!

PLEASE PARDON OUR EARLIER CONDUCT.

THE MOMENT YOU LEFT THE VILLAGE, YOU BECAME OUR BOSS. THAT WAS ALWAYS THE PLAN.

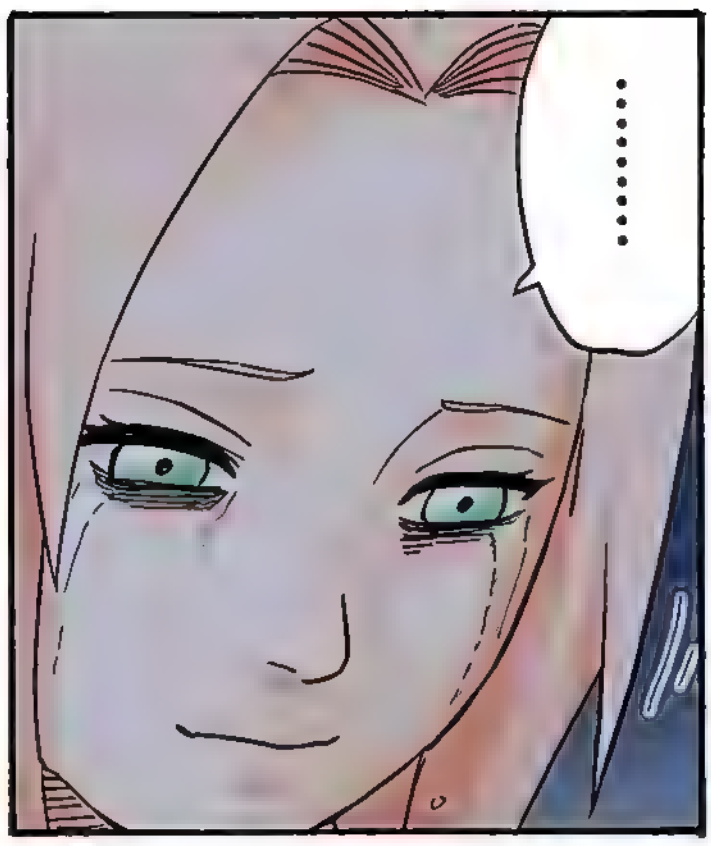
YEAH, FINE. WHATEVER. LET'S JUST GET ON WITH IT...

WHAT'S WITH THE CHANGE IN ATTITUDE?

WE'VE BEEN WAIT-ING FOR YOU.

SASUKE, SIR...

SO IT BEGINS!



182: ASSEMBLE!!

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182：集結!!

ARRGH. IT'S ALREADY 4 A.M.!

UGH...

ITAI ITAI

SHE COULD'VE FETCHED HER OWN PAPER...

THE FIFTH HOKAGE IS A SLAVE DRIVER, ISN'T SHE.

!

YO, WAKE UP!

YOU CAN'T SLEEP HERE. YOU'LL CATCH COLD.

?

WHAT'S UP?

.....

THANK YOU...

SASUKE!!

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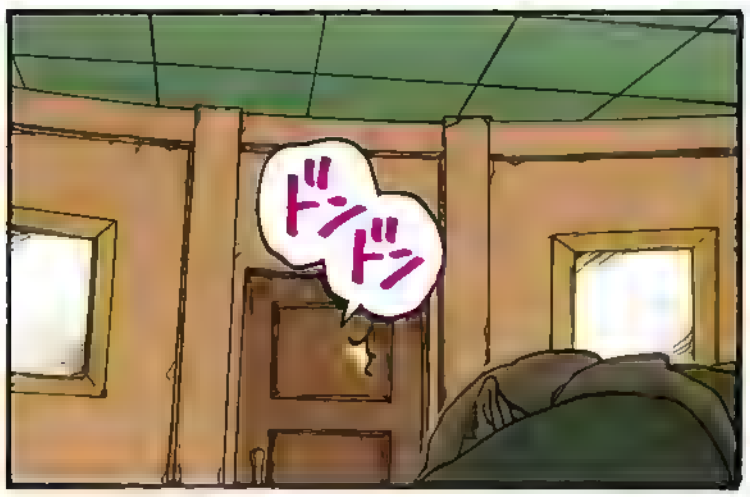
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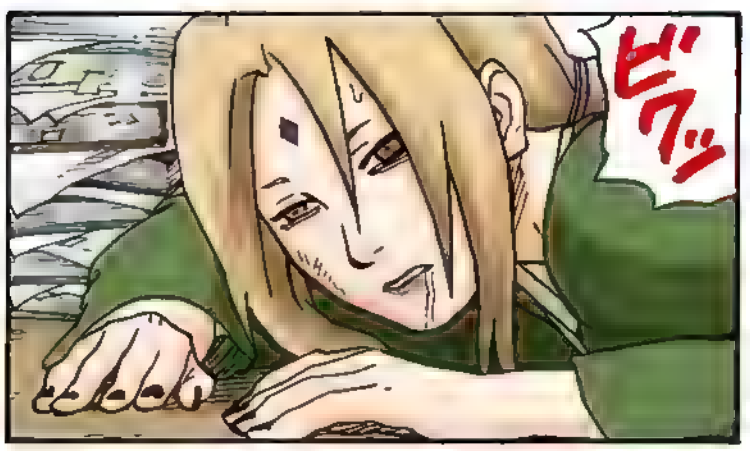
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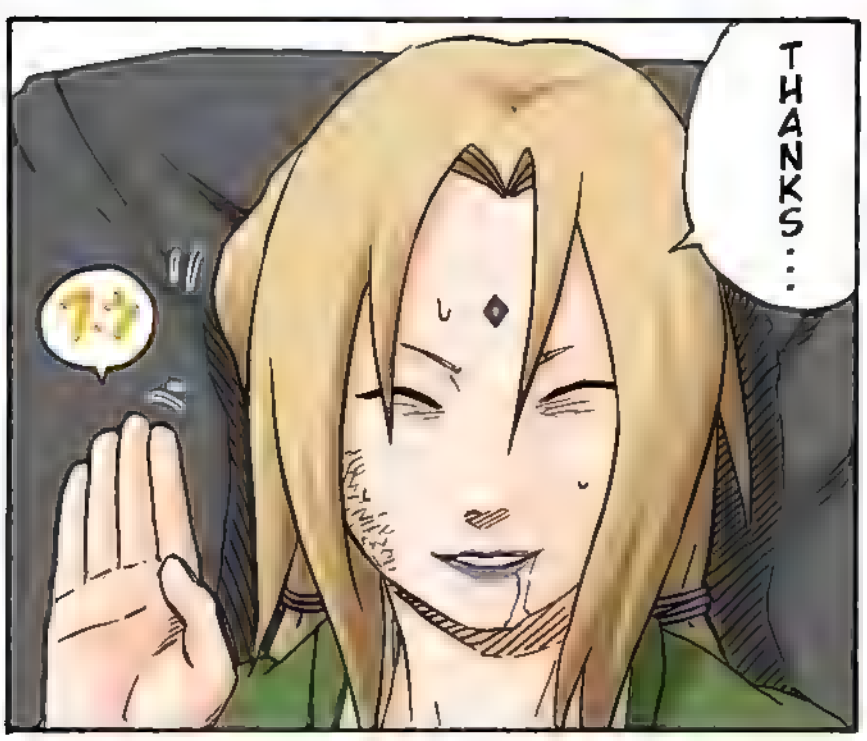
THANKS…
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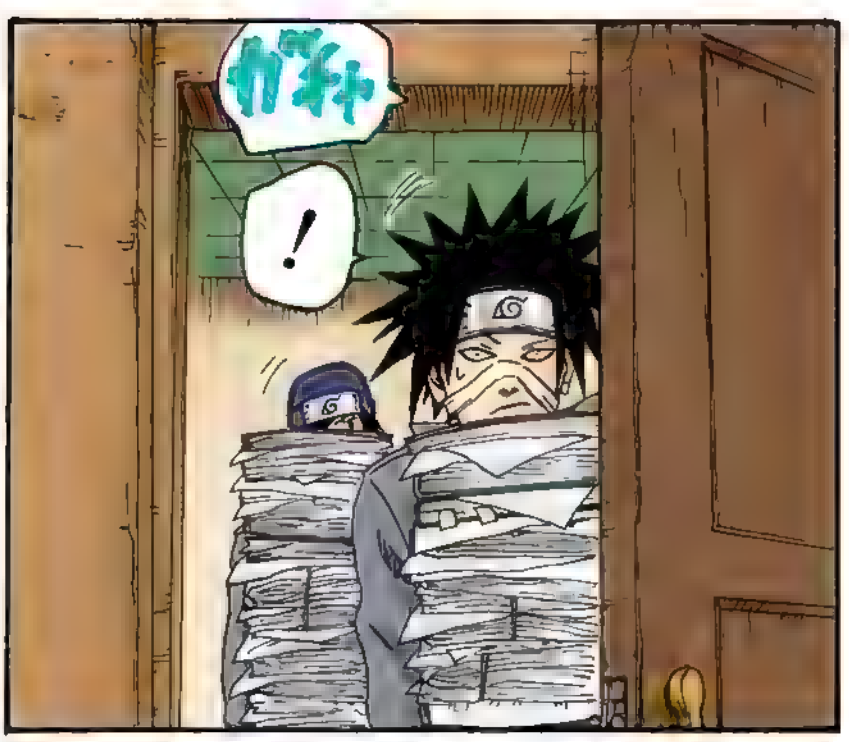
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NEVER MIND THAT. LADY HOKAGE...

THERE'S SOME-THING WE THINK YOU SHOULD KNOW.

AHHHH!

FIFTH HOKAGE! YOU WERE SLEEPING, WEREN'T YOU?!

YOU GOT TO SLEEP IN WHILE YOU SENT US AFTER YOUR PAPERS!

.....

.....!

OH?

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チュン

YES...

FROM WHAT HARUNO SAKURA TOLD US, THERE'S NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT.

ARE YOU SERIOUS ?!

WHAT !!

BLAST.

HE'S ALREADY MAKING HIS MOVE...

.....

.....

SO WHAT HE WANTS IS THE POWER OF THE UCHIHA? THAT...THAT CREEP!

THIS TIME I WILL DESTROY KONOHA COM-PLETELY.

AND WHILE I SECURE WHAT I WANT..

I WANT YOU TO BRING SOMEONE BEFORE ME.

IZUMO AND KOTETSU.

YAAAWWN...

THAT DOESN'T LEAVE YOU MUCH TIME FOR MORNING TRAINING!!

YOUR FATHER'S STARTING HIS MISSION TODAY!

HURRY UP AND FINISH EATING!

!

DING DONG

THIS EARLY? WHO ON EARTH...

ARR, THIS NAGGING. WHAT A WAY TO START THE DAY...

MAKE THAT "YES," AND ONCE!

OKAY, OKAY..

WHAT DID YOU SEE IN SUCH A HIGH-STRING WOMAN?

MMM ?

HEY, DAD...

HM" HM"

.....

I GUESS THAT WOULD BE IT...

ズズ

WELL...

THERE ARE MOMENTS WHEN EVEN SHE SMILES GENTLY...

IS THAT ALL?

.....

!

スッ

SHIKA-MARU!

SOMEONE TO SEE YOU. THE FIFTH HOKAGE'S RETAINERS.

BUT WHY?!

HE LEFT ?!

AND WE'RE... PRETTY SURE HE'S HEADING FOR THE VILLAGE HIDDEN IN THE SOUND.

LATE LAST NIGHT, UCHIHA SASUKE LEFT THE VILLAGE...

!

BECAUSE THAT CREEP OROCHIMARU HAS HIM IN HIS CLUTCHES!

.....

HANG... ON...

SHIKAMARU... THAT'S YOUR NAME, RIGHT?

I'M ASSIGNING YOU YOUR FIRST MISSION.

IT DOESN'T MATTER. IT'S A WASTE OF TIME TO SPECULATE ...

WHY WOULD SASUKE BE DRAWN TO SOMEONE SO EVIL?!

WAIT JUST A SECOND!

SURE ...

THE THING IS, THIS ASSIGNMENT NEEDS IMMEDIATE ACTION, AND ODDS ARE, THERE WILL BE TROUBLE.

IF NO ONE INTERFERES, IT SHOULDN'T BE THAT MUCH TROUBLE.

BRING SASUKE BACK. IS THAT ALL?

え？

MAN, THIS WHOLE BUSINESS IS BECOMING TIRESOME.

……

THERE'S A STRONG CHANCE THAT OROCHI-MARU'S HENCHMEN ARE ASSISTING SASUKE.

I'VE SEEN THIS PATTERN BEFORE.

...A SMALL, FOUR-MAN TEAM, COMPRISED SOLELY OF JONIN AND CHUNIN.

IF THAT'S THE CASE, THIS MISSION WOULD CALL FOR...

AMONG MY PEERS, HE WAS OUTSTANDING IN EVERY RESPECT. HE WAS CERTAINLY SUPERIOR TO ME...

BUT HIM..

ASIDE FROM THE BARE MINIMUM NEEDED HERE IN THE VILLAGE, MOST OF THE JONIN ARE AWAY ON OTHER MISSIONS.

YOU KNOW WHY. ASUMA, KAKASHI, EVEN YOUR FATHER...

キイ..

WH... WHY NOT?!

!

I CAN'T GRANT THAT...

.....

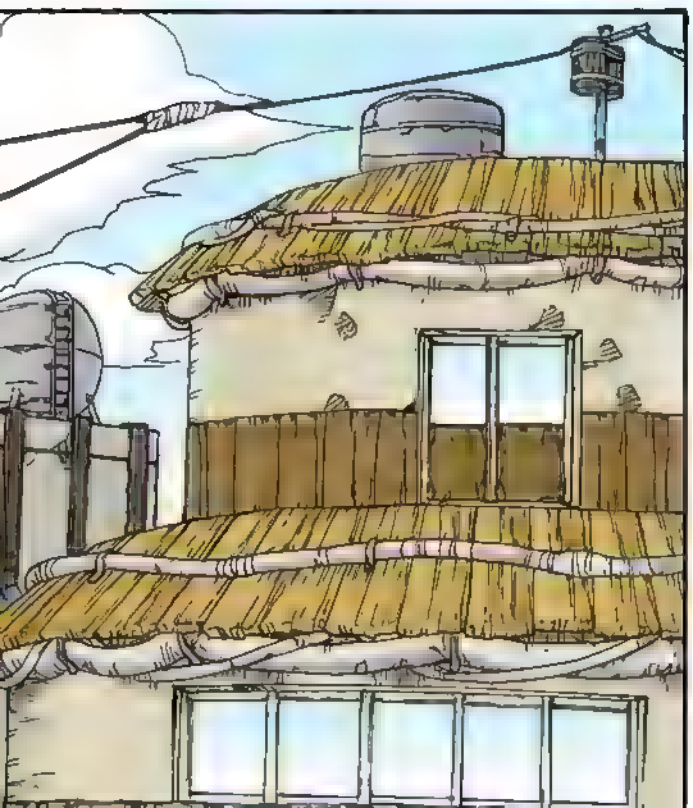
...GATHER AS MANY GENIN AS YOU DEEM NECESSARY, AND LEAVE THE VILLAGE.

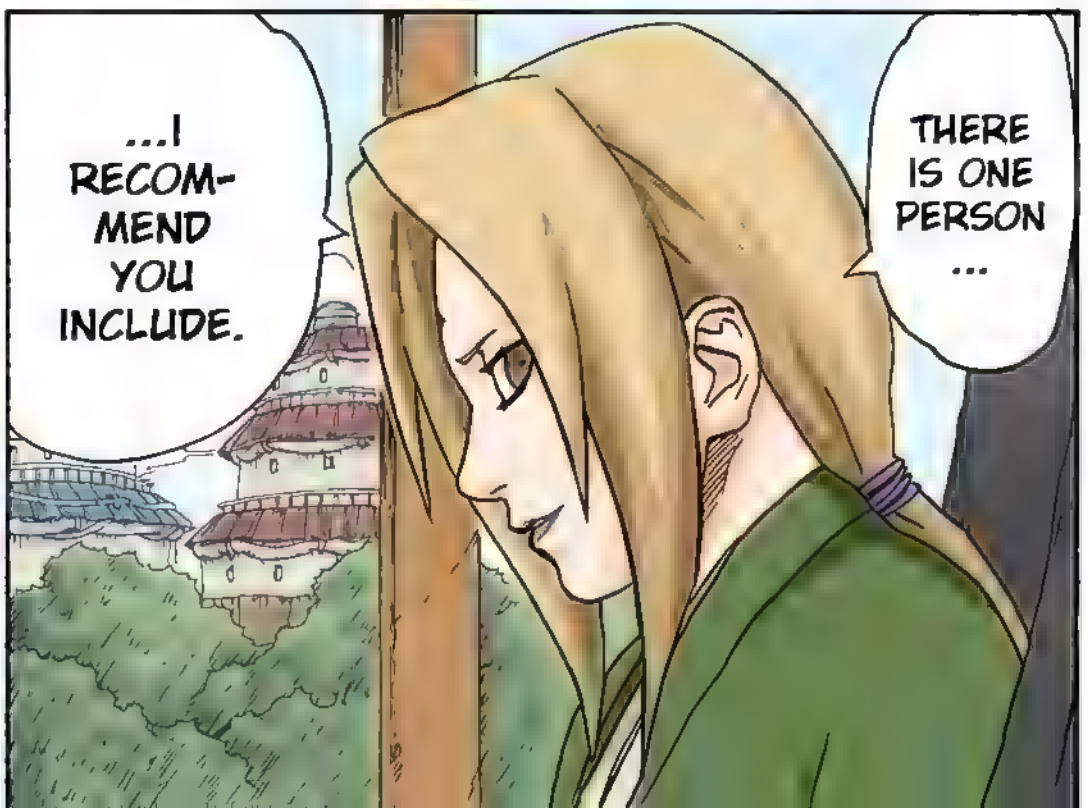
.....

WITHIN THE NEXT HALF AN HOUR...

Tk

I'M SURE IT'LL WORK OUT ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.
WELL, THIS IS A DRAG... STILL, I CAN'T JUST IGNORE IT.



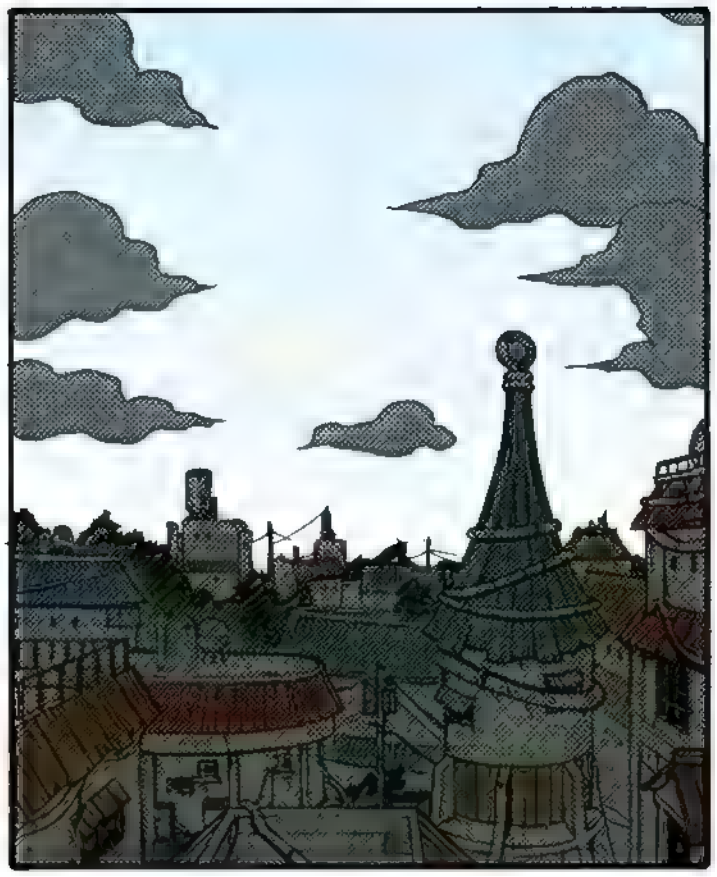

...I RECOM-MEND YOU INCLUDE.
THERE IS ONE PERSON ...

YOU'RE KID-DING ME!!

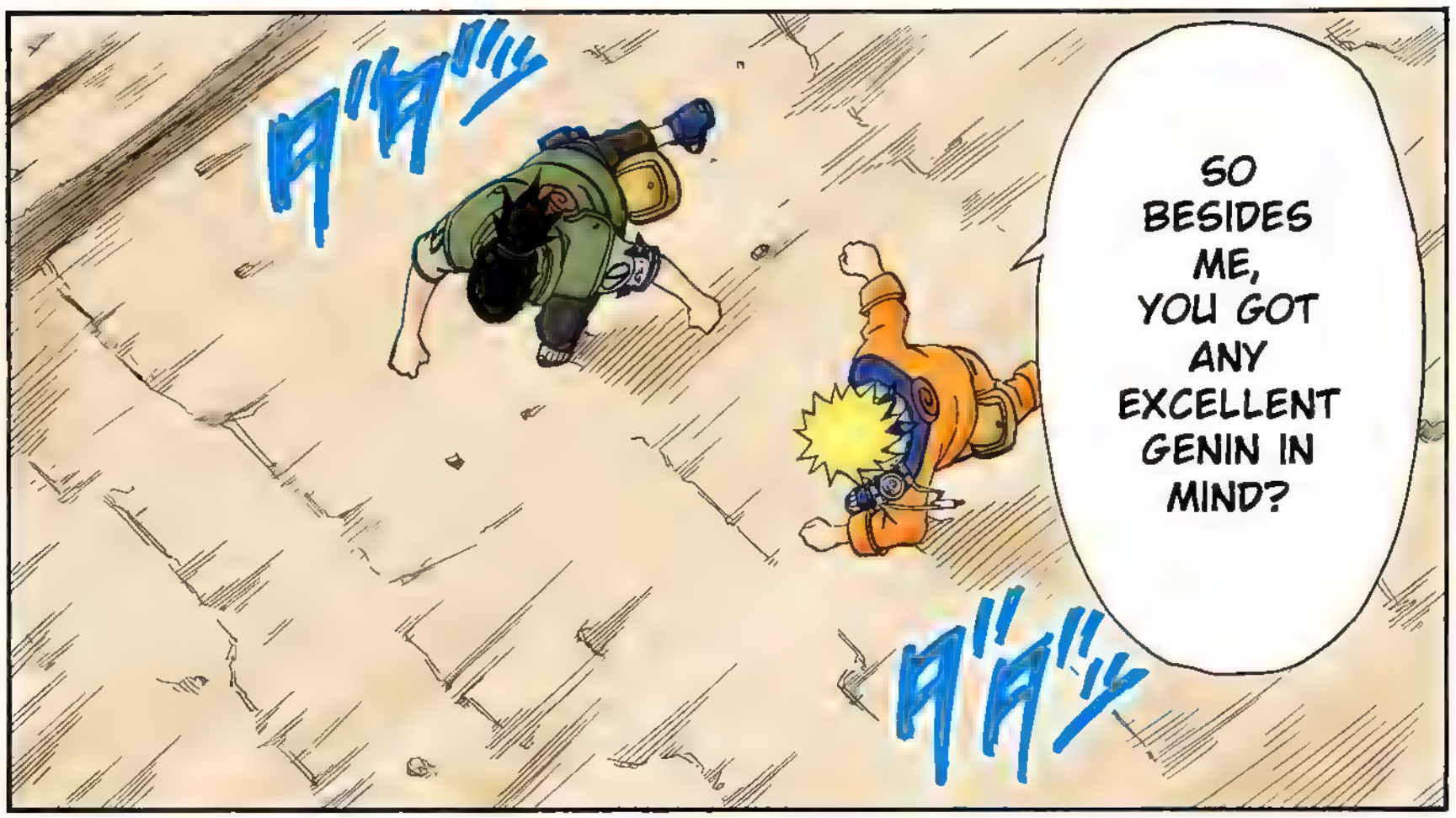
WHAAAAT!

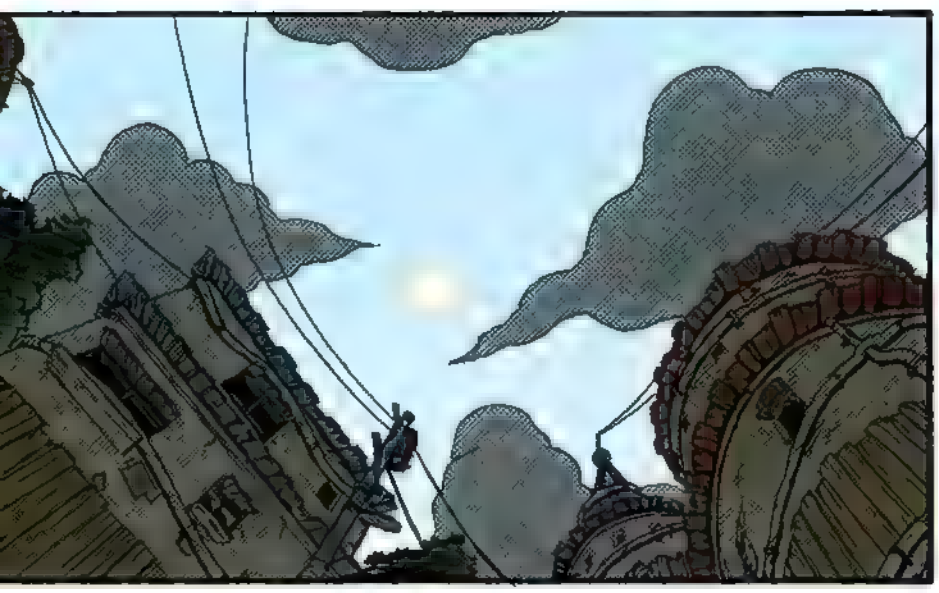
THAT MORON...

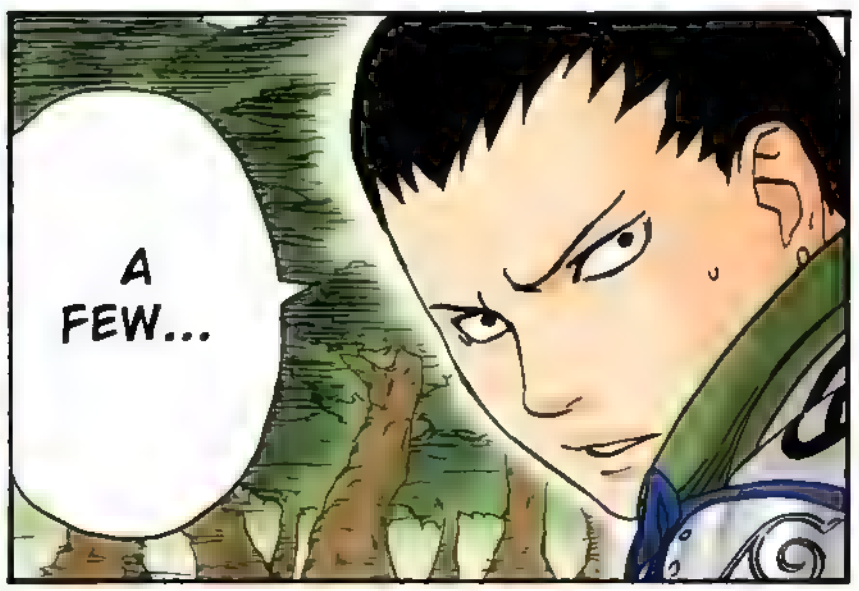
WHY HIM...?



WAIT JUST A MINUTE! I'LL JUST CHANGE REAL FAST.


SO BESIDES ME, YOU GOT ANY EXCELLENT GENIN IN MIND?

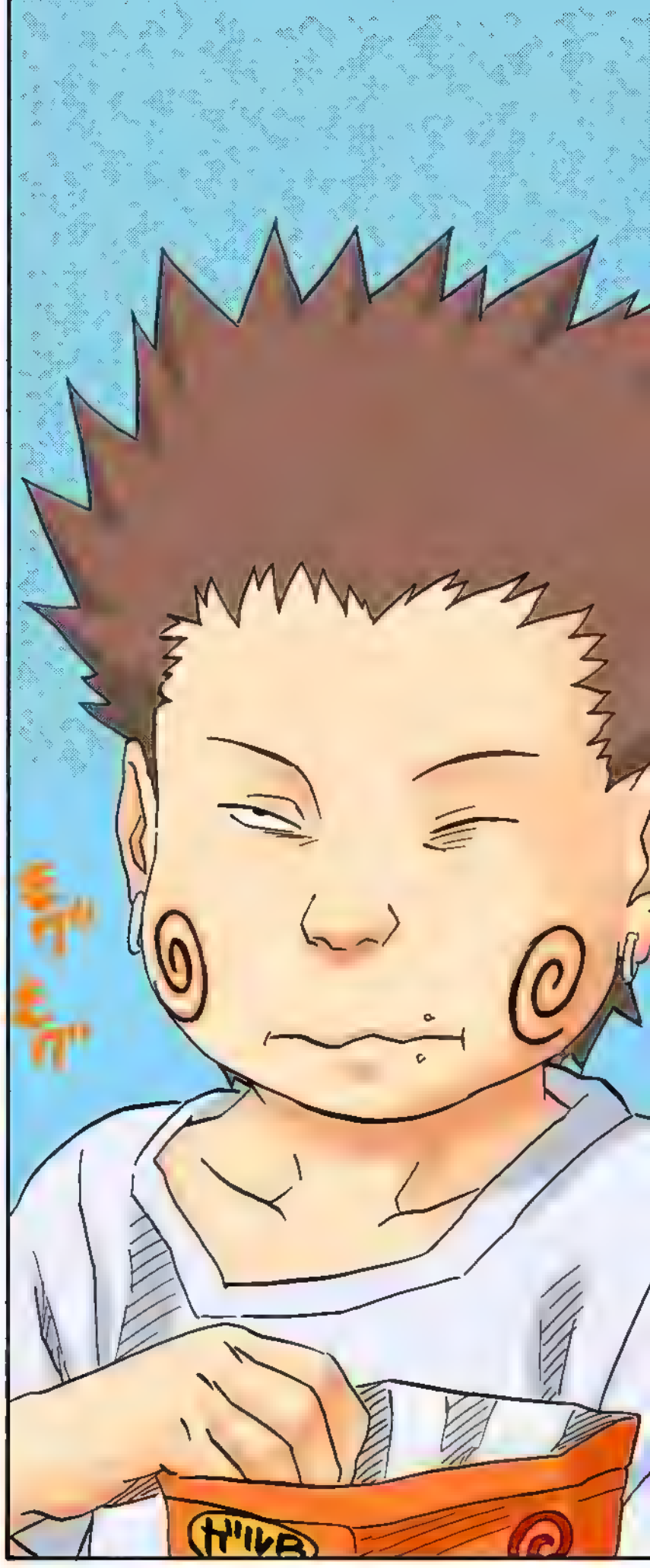



A FEW...

GEAR UP PRONTO, AND BE AT THE FRONT GATE IN TEN MINUTES.

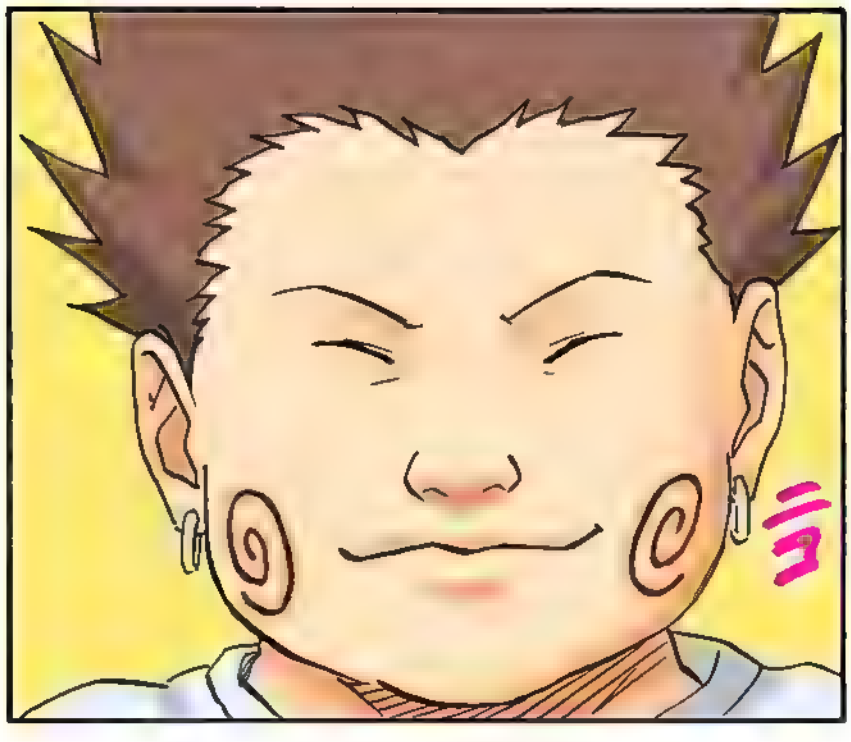
OKAY, CHOJI.

.....



I WAS THINKING MAYBE SHINO?

"EXCELLENT," RIGHT?



CHOJI'S BEEN MY TEAMMATE FOR AGES.

HE'S THE BEST FOR ANY TEAM.

!

!

!

SHINO'S OFF ON A SPECIAL MISSION WITH HIS FATHER.

WOOF WOOF!

CATCHING THAT EARLY STROLL IS PAYING OFF BETTER THAN EXPECTED, IT SEEMS.

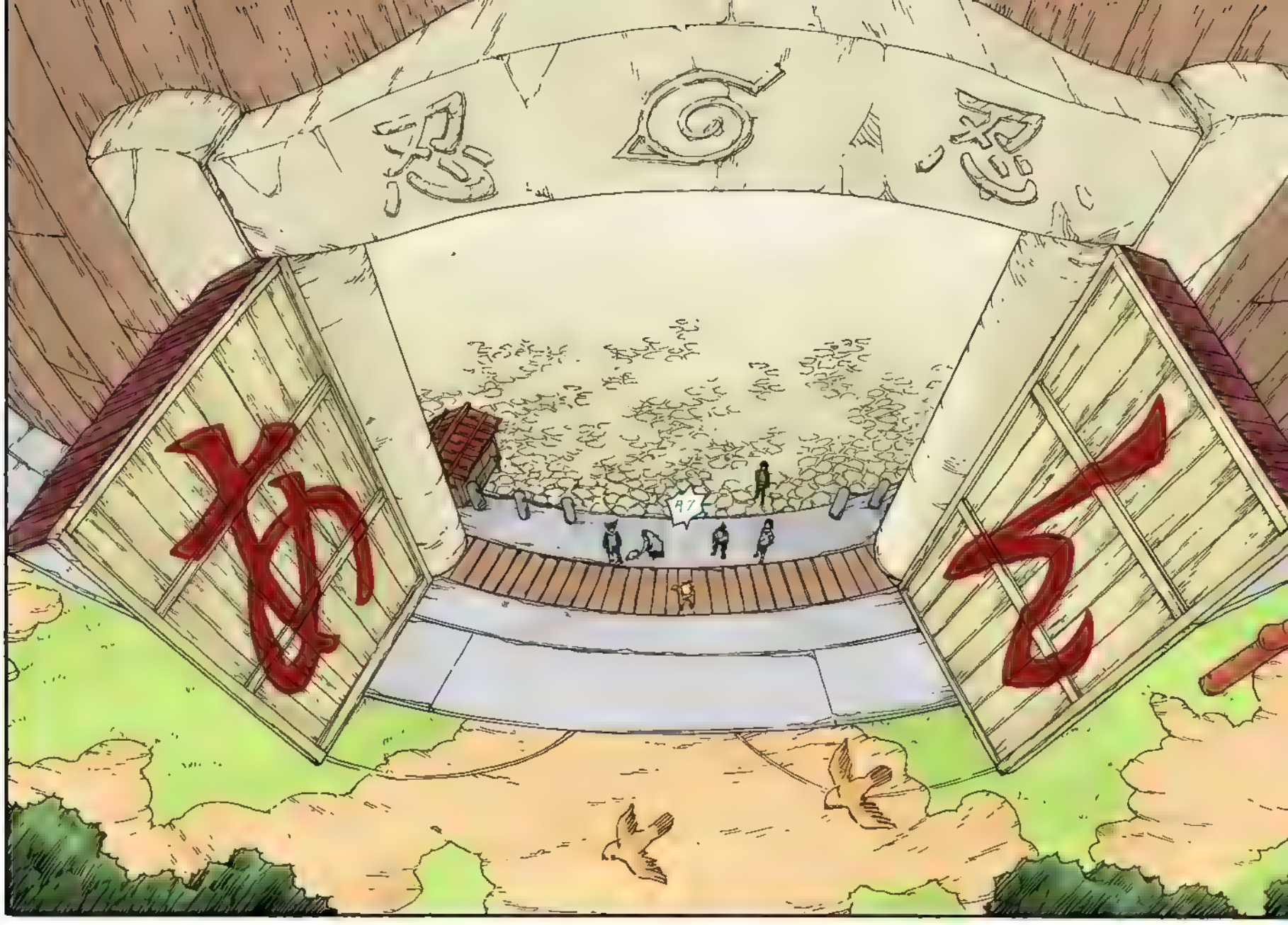
I HAVE SOMEONE I MIGHT SUGGEST.

SOUNDS LIKE YOU COULD USE SOME HELP.

I COULDN'T HELP BUT OVER-HEAR.

TIME'S UP.
WE'VE GOT FIVE SO FAR...
ON YOUR MARKS, GET SET...!!
LEE... YOU DO WHAT YOU MUST.
URGH...
IF THINGS WERE DIFERENT, I'D...

183: THE PROMISE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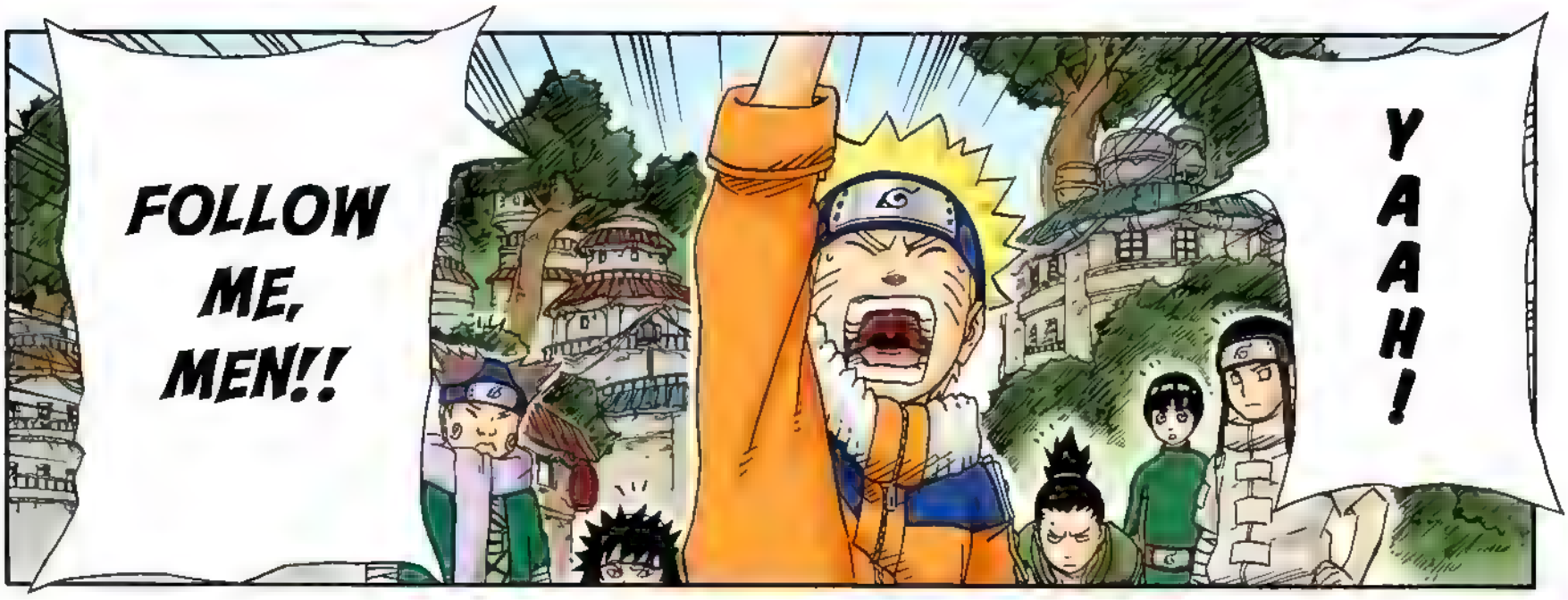
FOLLOW ME, MEN!!
YAAH!

YOU SURE YOU CAN HANDLE IT?
.....
SOME-HOW... I HAVE MY DOUBTS.
ｸﾙﾝ

I'M THE LEADER OF THIS SQUAD.
NARUTO... OKAY, LOOK...
I MEAN, IT'S A DRAG, BUT...

.....
.....
.....

IF THE TOP BRASS SEES HIM AS SOMEONE WHO CAN LEAD, IT'S NOT OUR PLACE TO QUESTION IT.

LOOK, GUYS, SHIKAMARU IS A CHUNIN ALREADY!

YOU HAVE TO RECOGNIZE HIS AUTHORITY.

STILL...BEING ORDERED AROUND BY SHIKAMARU, WHOSE HEART CLEARLY ISN'T IN IT...

THAT DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT EITHER...

WOOF

AND YOU ACTING THE BOSS IS SUPPOSED TO HELP, NARUTO?

ﾌｰﾝ

THAT MEANS IT'S EASIER FOR THE ENEMY TO ANTICIPATE US.

SINCE THIS IS A RESCUE MISSION, WE'RE THE PURSUER.

FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND, WE'RE FACING A LIKELY AMBUSH.

FINE. SO DETAIL US SOME PLAN OR STRATEGY THAT SHOWS US WHAT THEY SEE IN YOU.

.....

.....!

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IF YOU IGNORE ME AND START ACTING ON YOUR OWN...

WE'LL ALL DIE.

WE NEED A PARTY FORMATION THAT CAN INSTANTLY REACT TO AN ASSAULT.

WE'LL GO OUT SINGLE-FILE.

FIRST, THE MOST IMPORTANT FORWARD GUARD WILL BE...

YOU, KIBA.

YOU SPENT ALL YEAR WANDERING THE LAND OF FIRE WITH AKAMARU, SO IF ANYONE KNOWS THE TERRAIN, IT'S YOU...

PLUS, GIVEN YOUR ACUTE SENSE OF SMELL, WE CAN TRACK SASUKE BY SCENT.

!

YOU CAN EVEN DETECT AND DISARM BOOBY TRAPS, WHERE THE ENEMY HAS TOUCHED THEM.

ALSO, A SINGLE-FILE FORMATION IS VULNERABLE TO FRONTAL ATTACK...

YOUR PAIRING WITH AKAMARU MAKES YOU DOUBLY EFFECTIVE.

AND THEN...I, PLATOON LEADER, COME SECOND.

WHATEVER THE SITUATION, I CAN RESPOND BY ORDERING KIBA DIRECTLY FROM BEHIND.

MEANWHILE I CAN USE HAND SIGNALS TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE REST OF YOU.

THE CENTER... THE THIRD IS YOU, NARUTO.

YOU'VE GOT THE BEST INITIATIVE, SO YOU'RE BEST PLACED AT THE HEART. YOU CAN SUPPORT EITHER THE FRONT OR BACK, AS NEED BE.

YOU'RE THE HINGE OF OUR BACKUP... ESPECIALLY GIVEN YOUR SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGERS.

REAR GUARD IS THE TOUGHEST JOB OF ALL.

WITH YOUR BYAKUGAN, YOU CAN ENSURE THAT OUR SQUAD HAS NO BLIND SPOTS.

FINALLY, BRINGING UP THE REAR... IS NEJI.

CHOJI, YOU'RE FOURTH UP.

IN OTHER WORDS, YOUR JOB IS IN THE FOLLOW-UP STRIKE.

YOU DON'T HAVE SPEED, BUT YOU HAVE THE GREATEST STRIKING POWER. ONCE KIBA, NARUTO AND I LAUNCH A SURPRISE ATTACK, YOU TAKE THE STAGE AND CLOBBER THE ENEMY WITH A FATAL BLOW.

TAKE A GOOD LOOK.

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HERE. LET ME DRAW UP A DIAGRAM.

NARUTO LEFT, CHOJI RIGHT.

AND NEJI... YOU USE YOUR BYAKUGAN TO COVER THE WHOLE AREA BEHIND US.

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VERIFY YOUR TARGET AREA. KIBA FRONT.

ME GREATER FORWARD AREA.

LET ME SEE ALL YOUR NINJA TOOLS NOW.

IT'LL JUST TAKE THREE MINUTES.

I ALSO NEED TO KNOW OUR CURRENT BATTERY.

ANY QUES-TIONS?

ダヂダヂ

.....

.....

.....

IF YOU'RE GOOD SO FAR, LET ME TELL YOU THE MOST IMPORTANT THING.

A PERFECT FORMATION... AND SO QUICKLY, FROM A RANDOM TEAM LINEUP.

HA HA HA

!?

!?

.....
!?

I DON'T EVEN LIKE HIM, REALLY.

IT'S NOT THAT SASUKE IS MY BEST FRIEND...

THERE-FORE I WILL STAKE MY LIFE TO RESCUE HIM.

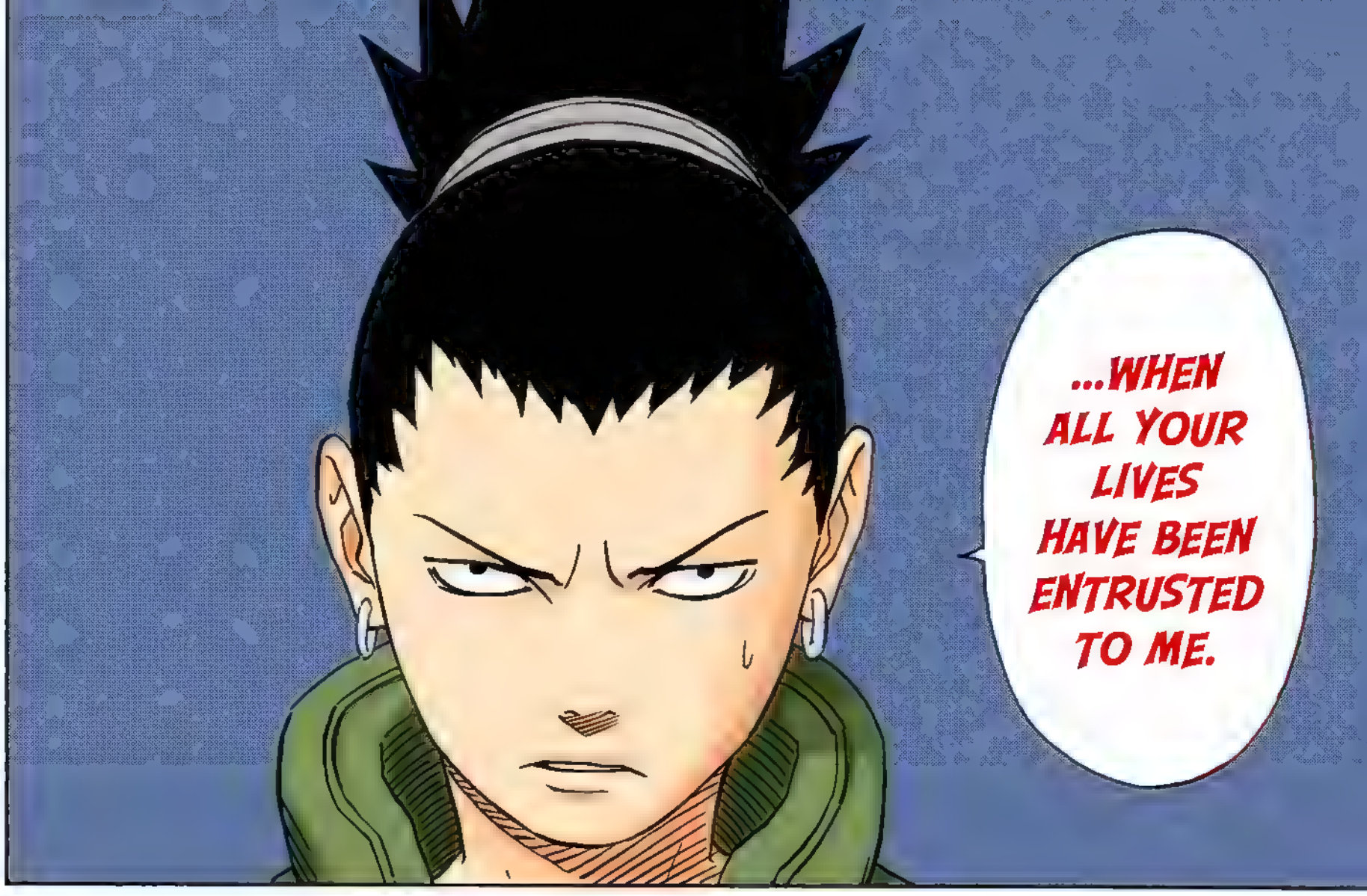
THAT'S THE KONOHA WAY.

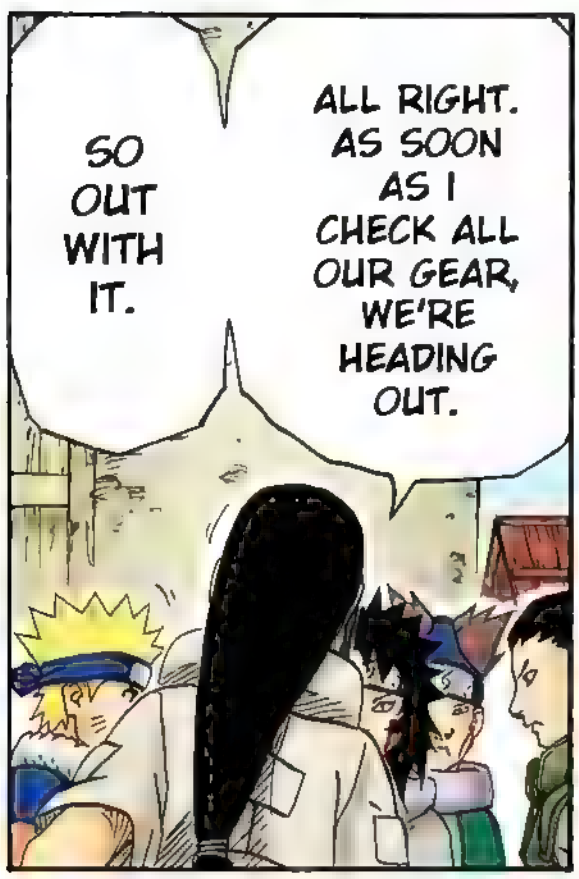
BUT LIKE US, SASUKE IS A SHINOBI OF KONOHA.

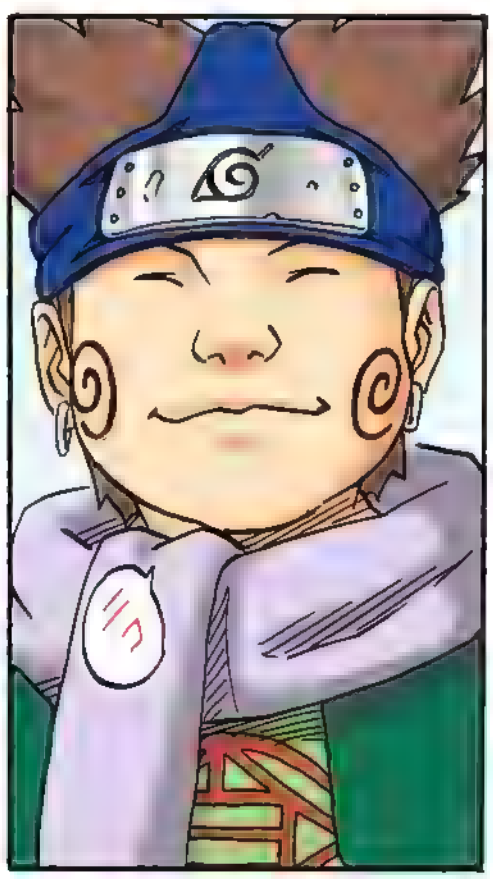
HE IS OUR COMRADE!

EVEN I CAN'T COMPLAIN ...

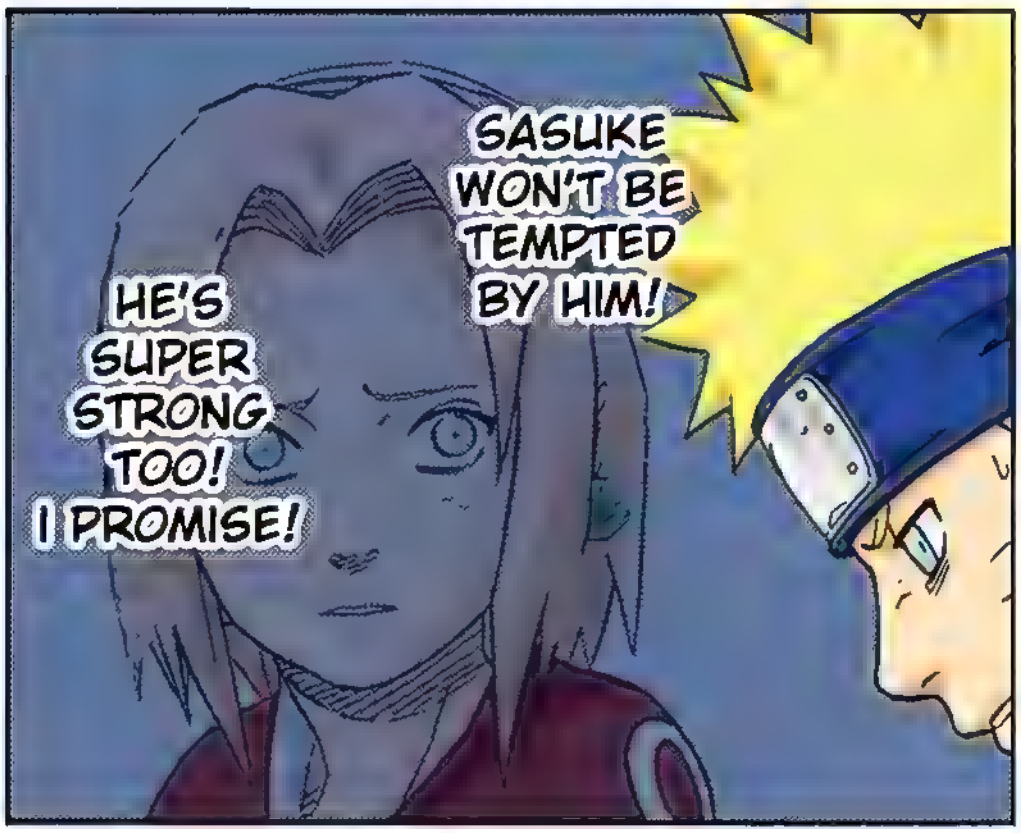
BEYOND THAT...


...WHEN ALL YOUR LIVES HAVE BEEN ENTRUSTED TO ME.


ALL RIGHT. AS SOON AS I CHECK ALL OUR GEAR, WE'RE HEADING OUT.
SO OUT WITH IT.



HEH!
YOU...WELL, NOW YOU'RE SOUNDING LIKE A CHUNIN.


SASUKE WON'T BE TEMPTED BY HIM!
HE'S SUPER STRONG TOO! I PROMISE!

.....

LET'S GET MOVING.
ALL RIGHT!

WAIT!

IT'S NUTS, SASUKE! WHY DID YOU...?
.....

SAKURA!

.....

I'M SORRY, BUT I CAN'T TAKE YOU ON THIS MISSION.

LADY HOKAGE TOLD ME WHAT HAPPENED.

.....

EVEN YOU COULDN'T... PERSUADE SASUKE, RIGHT?

SAKURA... YOUR ROLE HAS ENDED.

OUR ONLY RECOURSE IS TO PERSUADE HIM WITH FORCE...

!?

SAKURA, DOES THAT MEAN... YOU...

.....

SAKURA ...

SO NOW... NOW THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN... STOP HIM... SAVE HIM...

...IS YOU.

I COULDN'T DO IT!

I... I COULDN'T STOP HIM!

NARUTO, THIS... THIS IS MY WISH... OF A LIFETIME ...

PLEASE... PLEASE BRING SASUKE BACK...

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JUST... YOU, NARUTO.

SAKURA, YOU SURE DO CARE ABOUT SASUKE...

.....

.....

.....

I KNOW ALL TOO WELL...

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH NOW.

HE RUINS EVERY-THING... HE ENJOYS TOR-MENTING ME!

...IF HE HAD HIS WAY, I'D NEVER FIND LOVE OR HAPPI-NESS...

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF... NARUTO?

YES?

SAKURA, I HAVE TO KNOW...

HIC...

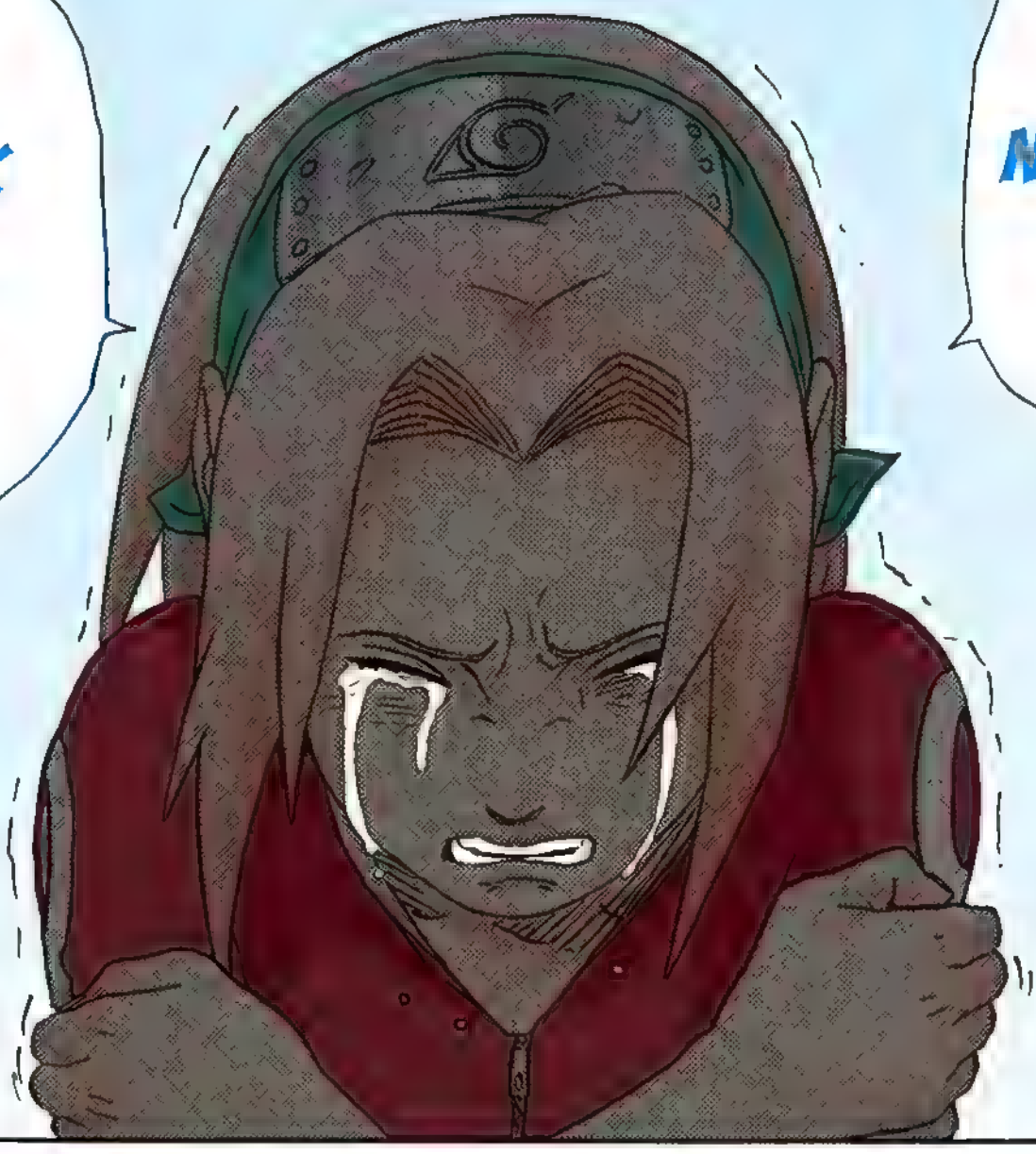
NSF...

...I CAN'T STAND TO HAVE HIM ANY-WHERE NEAR ME!

NARUTO DOESN'T UNDER-STAND ME AT ALL!

THANK YOU...

NARUTO ...



IT'S OKAY. I'LL BRING BACK SASUKE FOR SURE!

THAT'S MY PROMISE OF A LIFE-TIME!!

AND STILL YOU ALWAYS HELPED ME...

HIC...

YOU SAW ALL ALONG...

HIC...

THAT'S MY SHINOBI WAY!

HMPH! I NEVER GO BACK ON MY WORD...

YOU SURE YOU WANT TO MAKE PROMISES LIKE THAT?!

HEY, NARUTO!

LET'S GET ON WITH IT!

ALL RIGHT!

YEAH!

WE'VE LOST SOME TIME... WE'D BETTER GET CRACKING.

.....

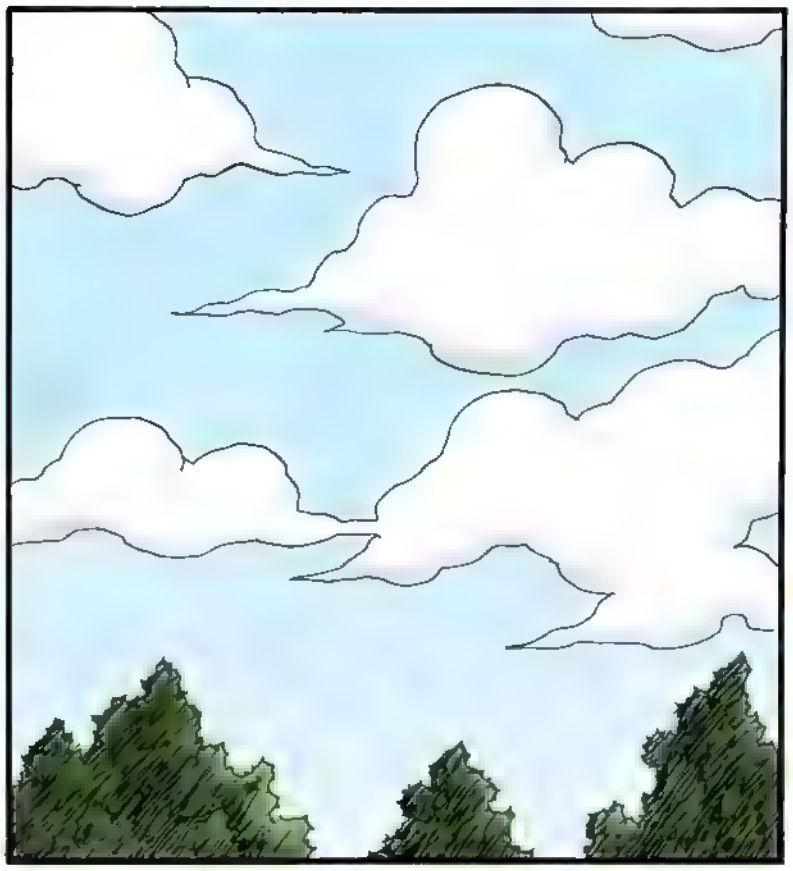
HHH

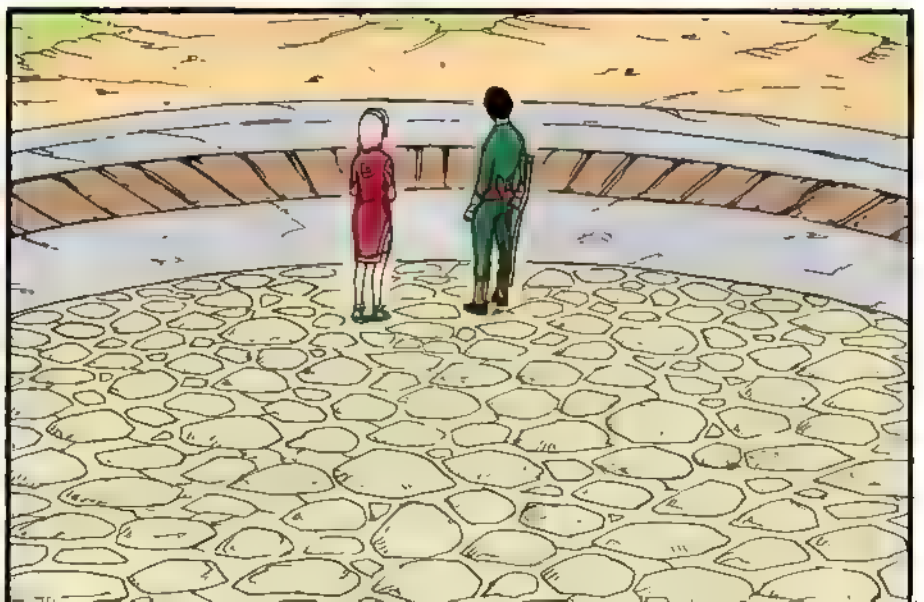
I'M SURE IT WILL ALL WORK OUT.

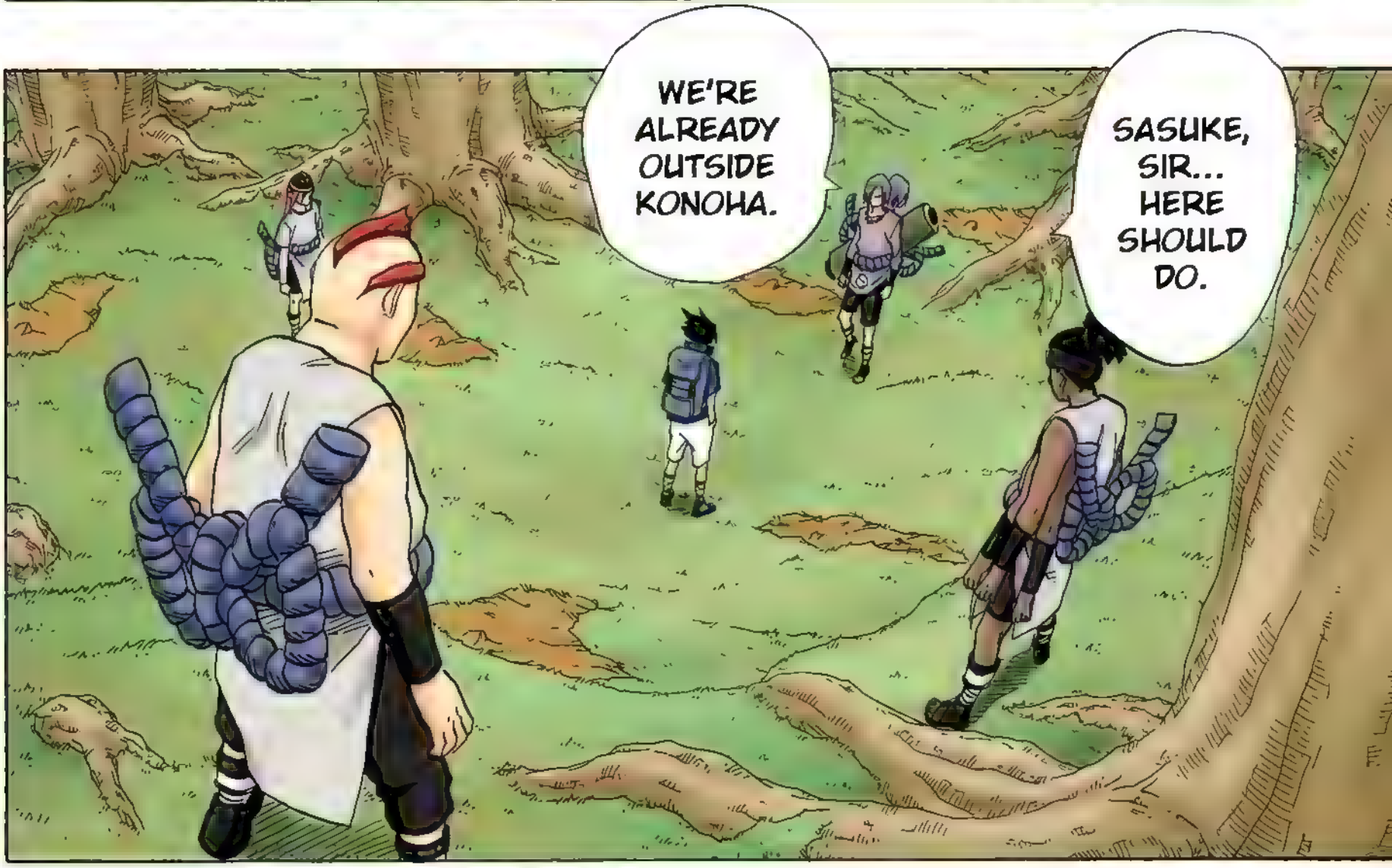
NARUTO PLAYED THE NICE GUY AND PROMISED ...

.....

THEY WILL SUCCEED. I'M CERTAIN OF IT!





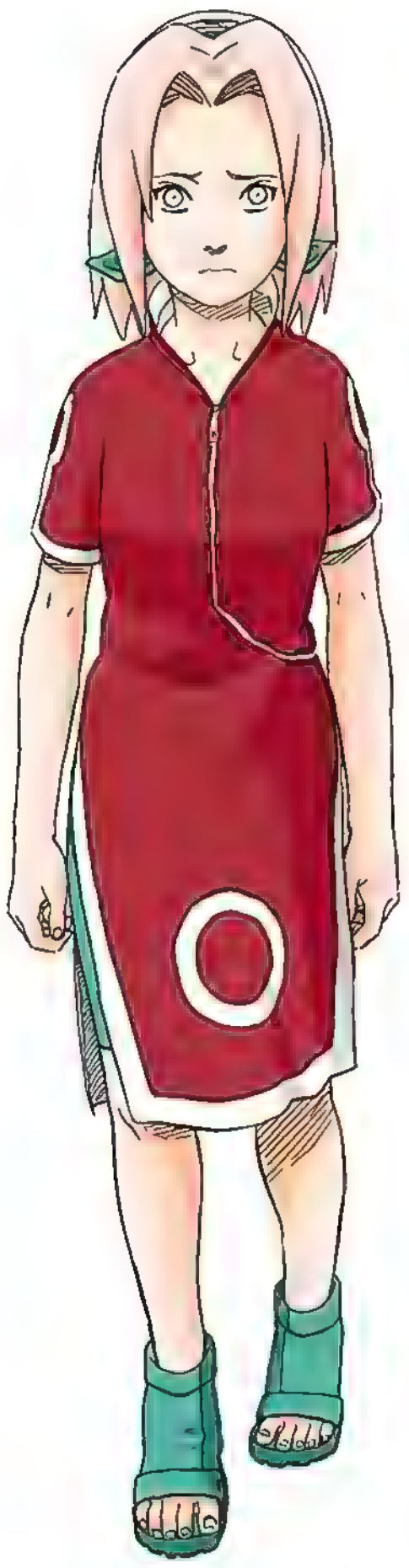

WE'RE ALREADY OUTSIDE KONOHA.
SASUKE, SIR... HERE SHOULD DO.

AND I'M ASKING YOU WHAT IT IS.

IT'S JUST THAT LORD OROCHIMARU GAVE US A TASK...
SOME-THING... CRITICAL.

DO? FOR WHAT?

YOU MUST DIE...
JUST THIS ONCE.



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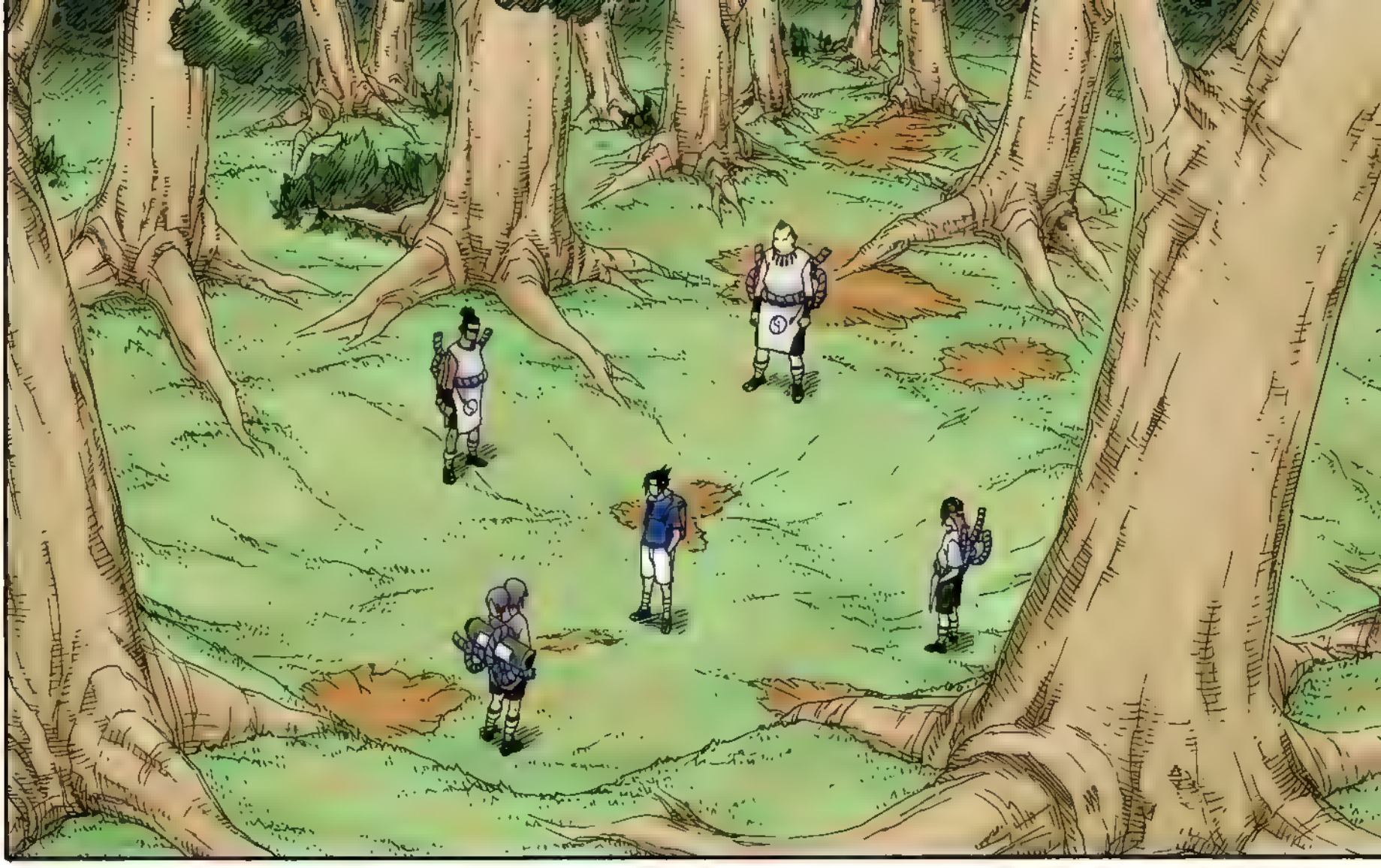
SOUND VS. LEAF!!



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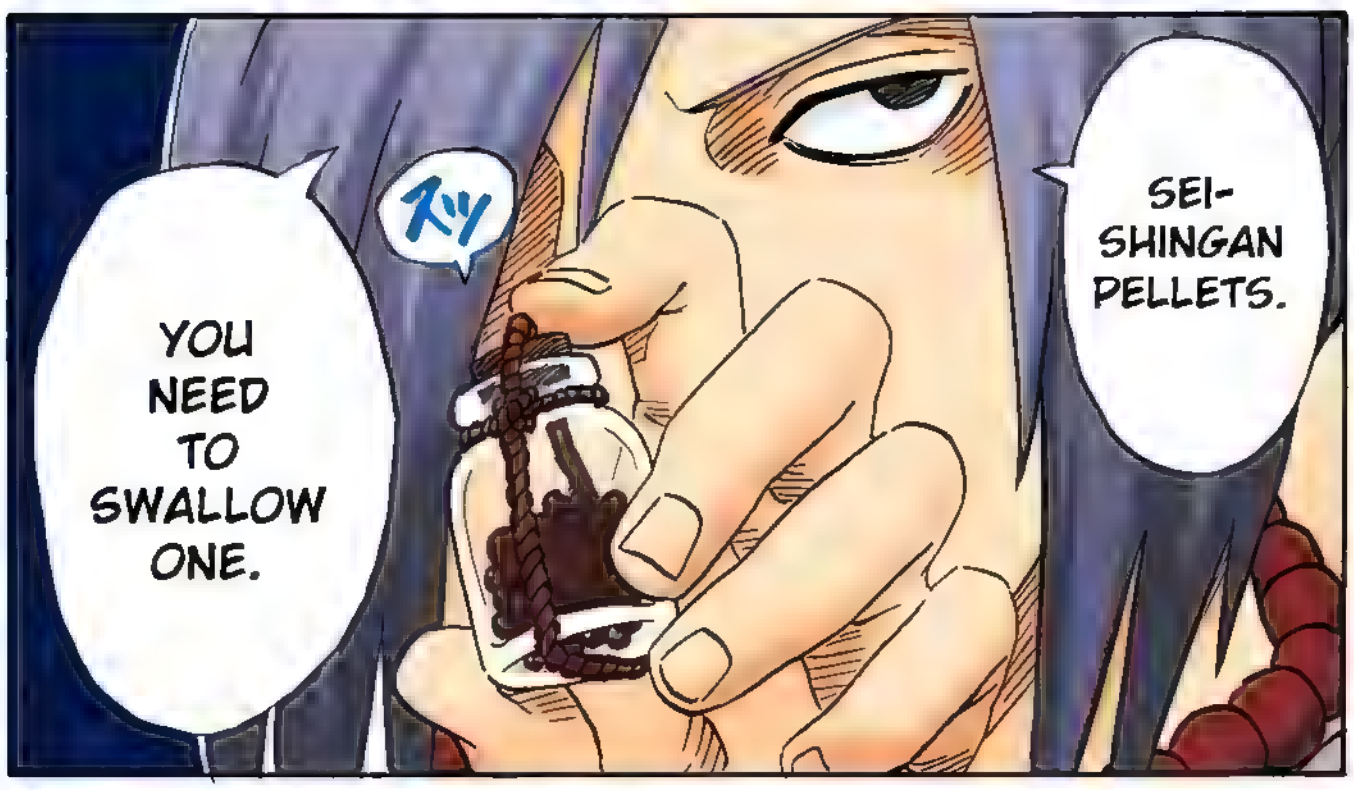
I MUST DIE... ONCE?
……!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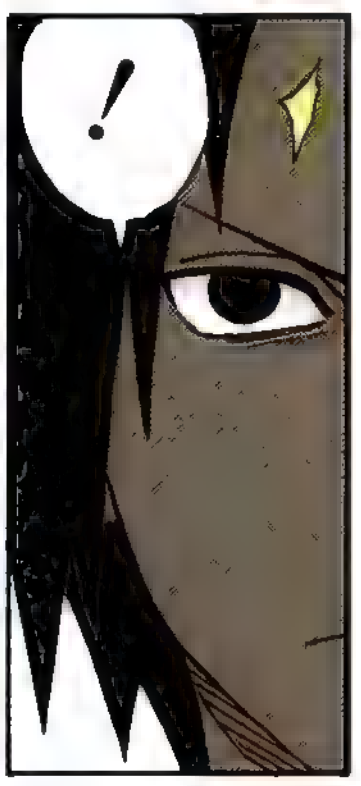
YOU NEED TO SWALLOW ONE.
SEI-SHINGAN PELLETS.


!

THESE PELLETS FORCIBLY AWAKEN THE MARK'S POWER, RAISING IT TO SECOND STATE.

YOUR CURSE MARK IS STILL IN ITS FIRST STATE.

WHAT IS THAT?

SEI-SHINGAN ...

IF LEFT UNCHECKED, YOU WILL DIE IN NO TIME.

BUT THE MOMENT YOUR REACH YOUR SECOND STATE, THE CURSE WILL RAPIDLY EAT AT YOUR BODY.

WHEN YOU DO ACHIEVE YOUR NEW STATE...

YOU WILL PROBABLY GAIN A POWER EQUAL TO OURS, AND YET...

YOUR BODY MUST BE ACCLI-MATIZED OVER AN EXTENDED PERIOD.

SO...

TO CONTROL THE POWER OF THE SECOND STATE...

WITHIN MINUTES OF YOUR AWAKEN-ING...

!

YOU WILL DIE, FOR CERTAIN.

WE'RE HERE AT YOUR SERVICE.

YOU NEED NOT WORRY...

OKAY, SO ONCE I'M DEAD, WHAT NEXT?

.....

!?

RATHER THAN DIE, YOU WILL LAPSE INTO A SUSPENDED ANIMATION.

USING BARRIER NINJUTSU, WE CAN REIN IN THE SIDE EFFECTS...

IS IT TRUST-WORTHY ?

THIS BARRIER NINJUTSU OF YOURS...

.....

WE EXCEL IN ALL MANNER OF NINJUTSU, BE IT BARRIER, DEFENSIVE WALLS...

...CURSE MARKS, SEALING SPELLS AND THE REST.

SASUKE, SIR...

WE'RE THE SOUND NINJA FOUR, BODYGUARDS TO LORD OROCHIMARU. THE ELITE OF THE ELITE.

NO MATTER WHAT, I CAN'T DIE YET...

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I CAN'T ...

.....

ALL RIGHT...

.....

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URRG...

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HEY GUYS, NO DALLYING. OUR SASUKE MIGHT JUST DROP DEAD.

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TAKE POSITION!

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NOW!!

SHIKOKU MUJIN! FOUR BLACK MISTS FORMA-TION!!

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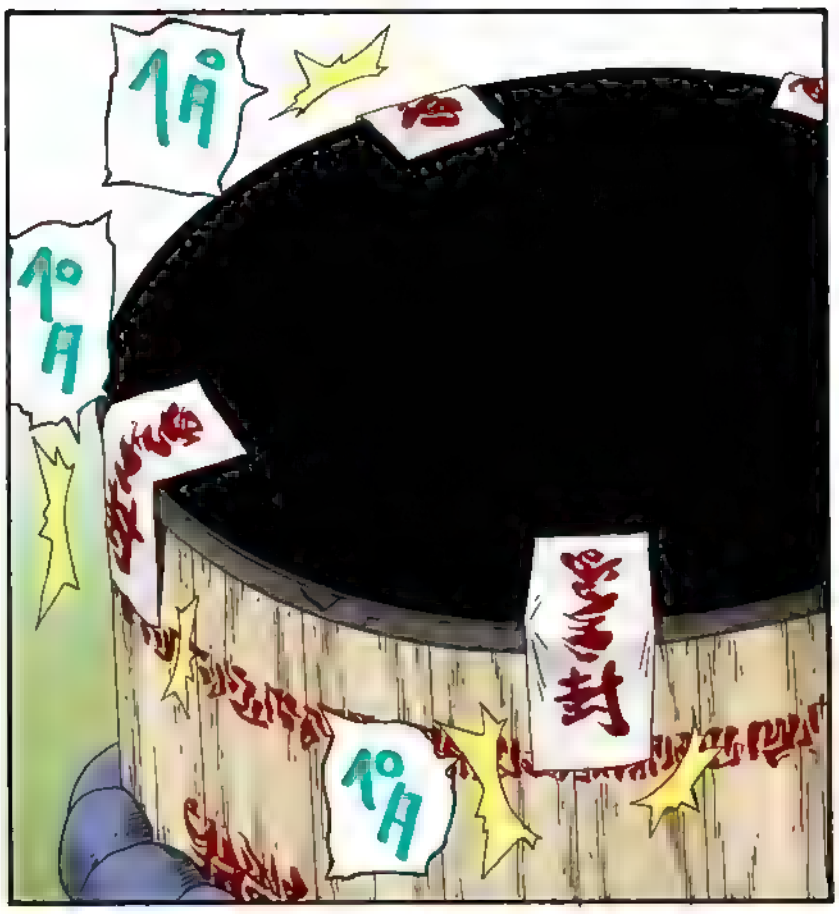
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封

FUKOKU
HOIN!
BLACK
SEAL!!

PHASE ONE IS OVER.

WELL.

IF YOU'D GIVE UP BEING A SHINOBI, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO DIE.

LEE...

.....

.....

WHY ARE YOU SO ADAMANT ABOUT CONTIN-UING?

THE ONLY REASON I EXIST...

...IS TO PROVE THAT EVEN I HAVE THE MAKINGS OF A SPLENDID NINJA.

...THAT'S A PROMISE!!

I KNOW...

EVEN IF IT IS SUCESS-FUL...

YOU KNOW THIS IS A DANGEROUS BUSINESS.

STILL, THAT IS MY DREAM.

HEH HEH HEH.

!

'CUZ UNLIKE YOU I WANT THAT TITLE SOME-DAY.

WHY ARE YOU SO SENSITIVE ABOUT THE TITLE HOKAGE?

...IS MY DREAM!

TO BE HOKAGE...

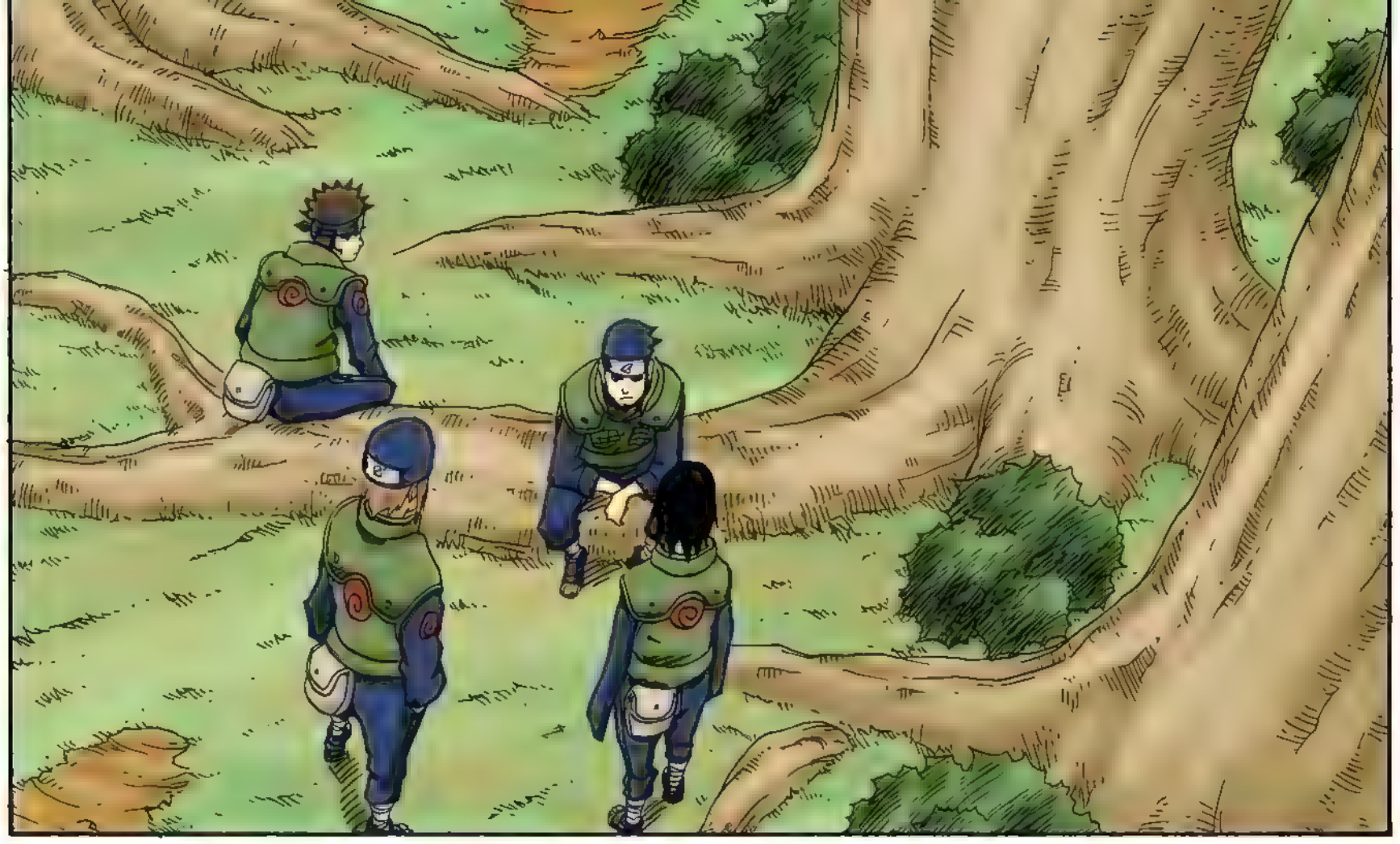
YOU'RE PREPARED TO FACE IT, RIGHT?!

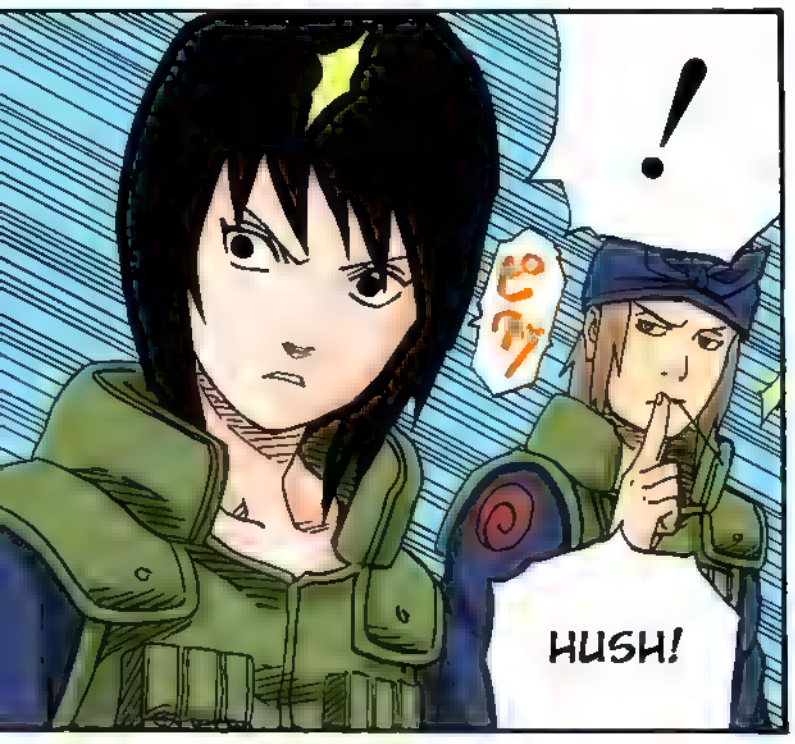
WELL THEN. LEE! LET'S GO.

YEP!!

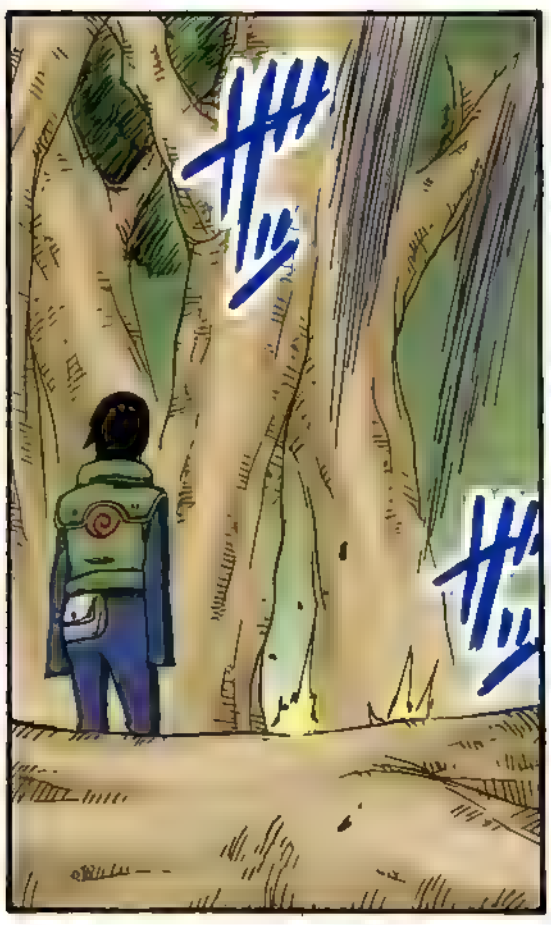
MASTER SARUTOBI... IT LOOKS LIKE YOU WERE A REMARKABLE HOKAGE INDEED...

THIS VILLAGE IS FOSTERING SUCH PROMISING CHILDREN.




!
HUSH!

I NEVER IMAGINED THE MISSION WOULD TAKE THIS LONG...
URRRG... SO EXHAUSTED.



YEAH!
I'LL GO SEE WHAT'S UP. RAIDO, C'MON.

!
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HERE THEY COME!

THERE'S ONE... NO, TWO...

CRUD... THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET COMPLI-CATED.

!

!

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!!!!!!

!!!!!!

!

YOU'RE OROCHI-MARU'S..

WHAT'S IN THE TUB?

FROM THE DIRECTION YOU'RE HEADED, I GATHER YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY BACK FROM KONOHA.

NOW WHAT?

!!

ハンハン

WHINE

ズズ…ズ…

FIGHTING TWO JONIN IS A BIT ROUGH.

NEARBY... THE SMELL OF BLOOD...

ナンバー

185：PURSUIT...!!

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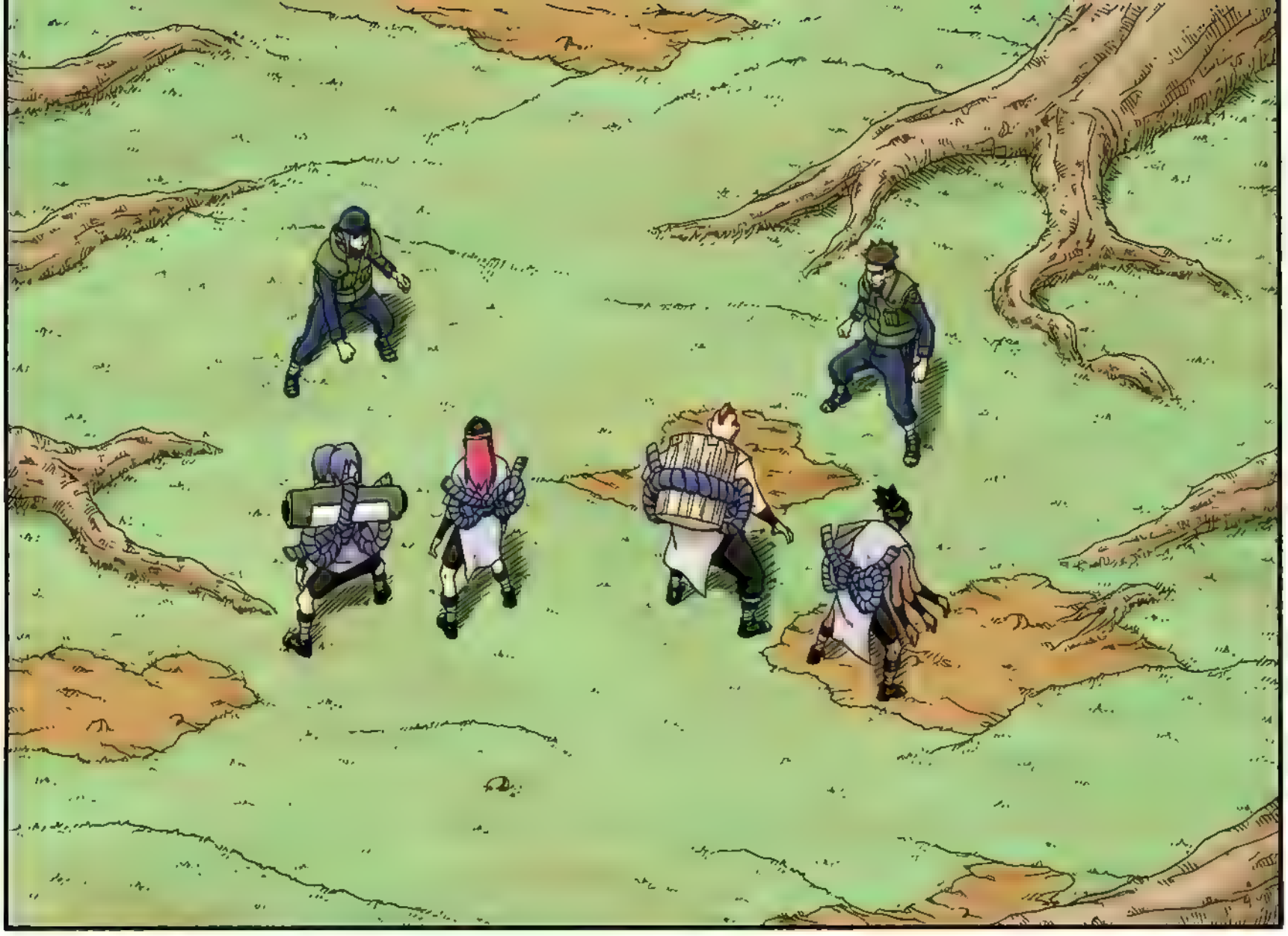

NO POINT IN TALKING, EH? LAST TIME YOU SURPRISED ME WITH THAT ATTACK OF YOURS. THAT'S NOT HAPPENING AGAIN.

CURSE MARKS, ALL AROUND...

TSS

YOU'RE JUST PAWNS TO OROCHIMARU. DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE THE SHINOBI OF KONOHA.

SHUT UP, SCUM. YOU SHOULD HAVE DIED ON YOUR FEET.

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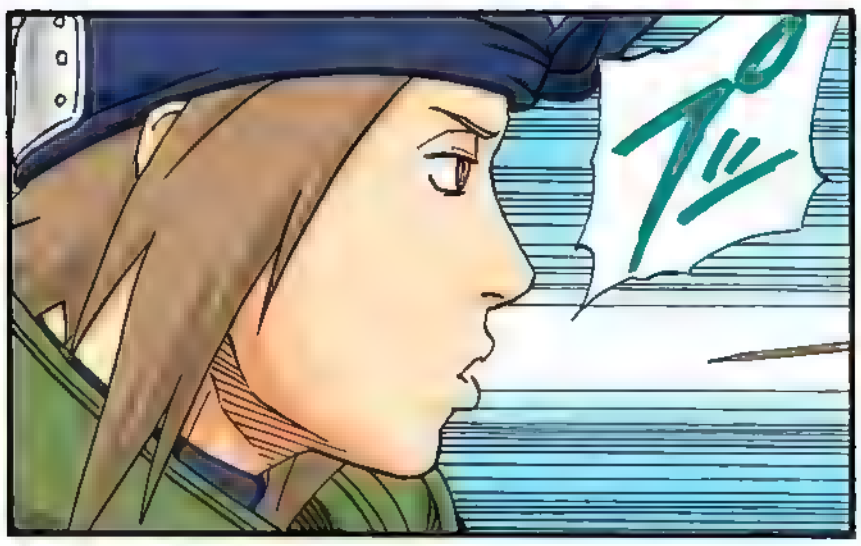
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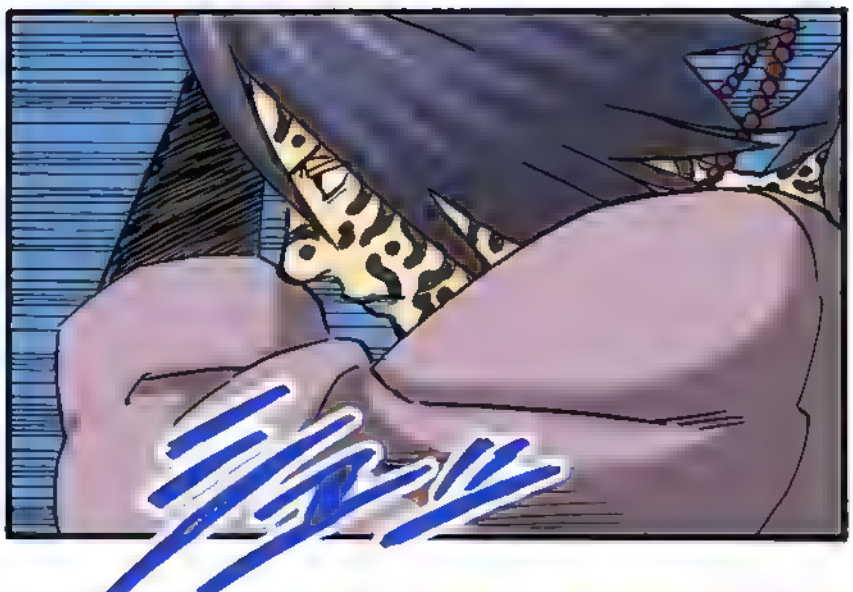

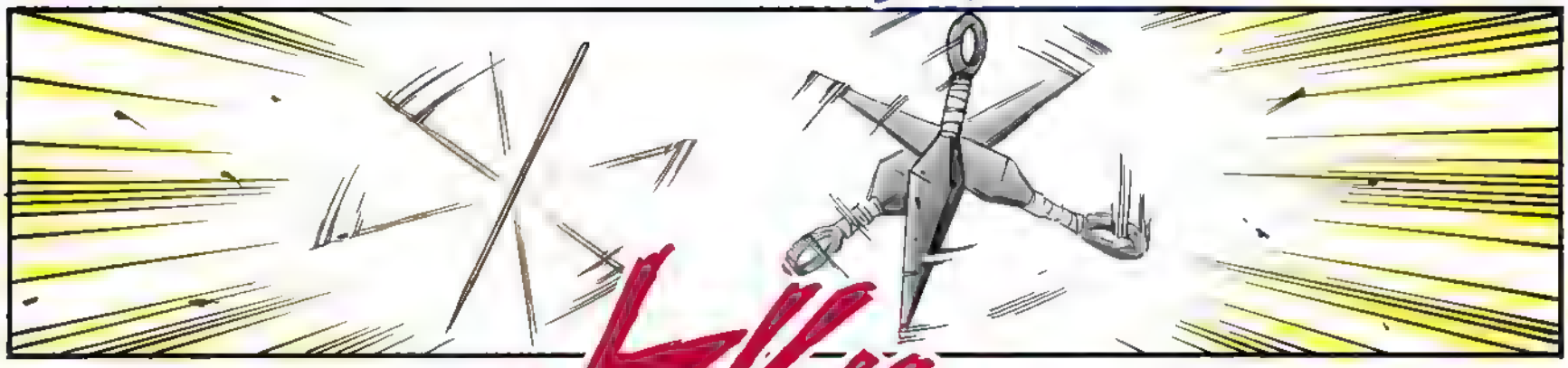
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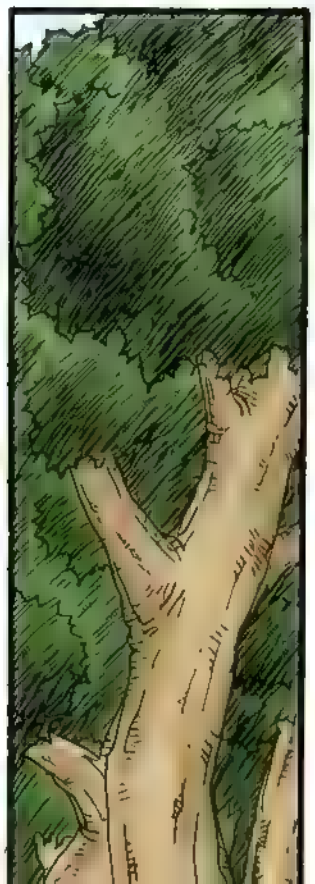
SO WHAT SHALL WE DO, SHIZUNE?

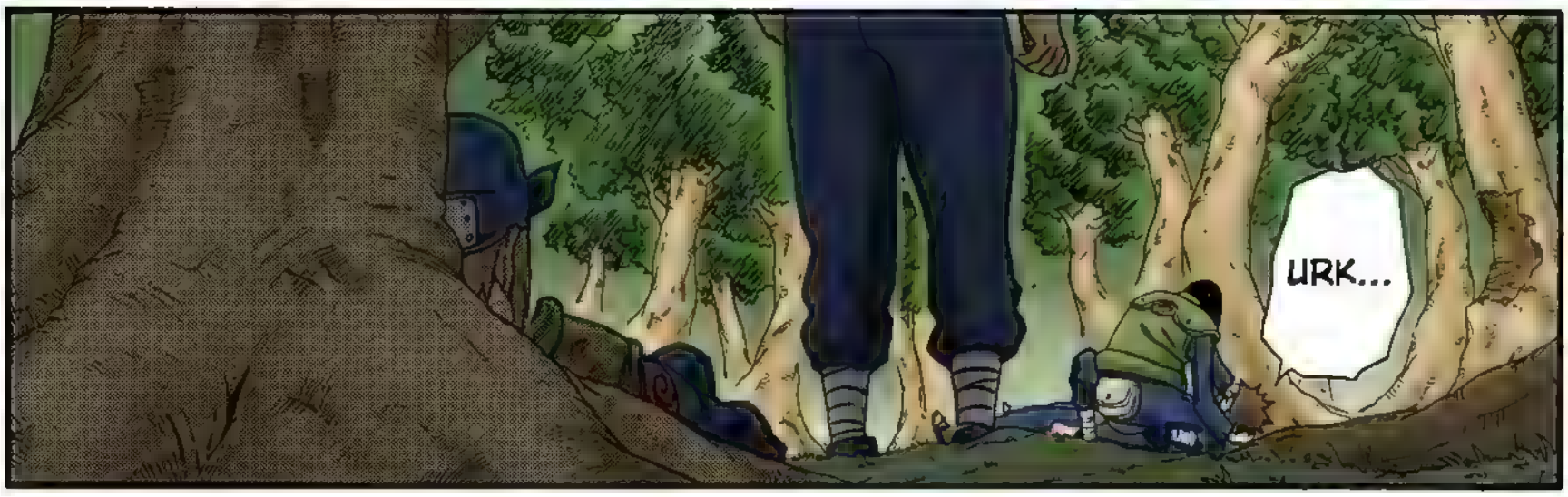
THEY'RE TAKING TOO LONG...

WHA... WHAT THE...
!!



OKAY.
WE SHOULD GO CHECK.

HAH !!
THIS...IT'S IMPOSSIBLE... HOW COULD THEY LOSE?!
THIS IS BAD...


URK...

DON'T!

FIRST AID IS ALL I CAN DO NOW...

I'M HEADING AFTER THEM!
SHIZUNE.

…!

IWASHI... WAIT.

BUT...

IF YOU GO AFTER THEM ALONE, YOU'RE DEAD...

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THEIR JUTSU... IT'S NO LONGER THE WORK OF SHINOBI.

……

GENMA... DON'T SPEAK.

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!

IT'S JUST AS I THOUGHT ...

WHAT DO WE DO?

BUT NOW THE ORIGINAL FIVE ARE LEAVING THE BLOOD ZONE!

THEIR SCENTS WERE JOINED BY TWO NEW TRACES...

YOU'RE NOT IN CHARGE HERE. THAT'S UP TO SHIKA-MARU TO DECIDE.

SHUT UP, NARUTO!

LET'S JUST CATCH UP TO SASUKE!

THIS IS TURN-ING INTO A REAL PROB-LEM...

HE HAS ESCORTS.

I SUPPOSE WE MIGHT TURN UP SOMETHING BY INVESTI-GATING...

BUT WE CAN'T JUST TEAR IN HALF-COCKED. WE'LL HAVE TO SWITCH GEARS TO SCOUT MODE AND CREEP IN AT GROUND LEVEL...

IF THERE'S THE SMELL OF BLOOD...

THAT MEANS THERE WAS A FIGHT.

.....

SO WHAT'RE WE DOING, THEN?

AND WHILE WE'RE PLAYING DETECTIVE...

SASUKE WILL HAVE CROSSED THE BORDER.

ALL RIGHT! WAY TO GO, MAN!

FINE! WE'LL TRAIL SASUKE!

LISTEN... THEY'VE ALREADY FOUGHT ONCE. THAT MEANS THEY'LL BE EVEN MORE GUARDED.

THEY'D CLEARLY CONSIDER THE POSSI-BILITY THAT THEY'RE BEING TAILED BY AN ELITE TRACKING UNIT.

CHANCES ARE, THEY'VE LAID TRAPS AND ARE LYING IN WAIT.

ULP

SO PUT ALL YOUR SENSES ON ALERT.

AND IF YOU HIT ON ANY UNUSUAL SIGNS...

DON'T JUST AVOID IT- INTERPRET IT!!

AND WE'LL FIND THEM BEFORE THEY SPRING A MINE AT US!

OKAY!

WHEN WE FIND 'EM, I'LL USE MY NEW TECHNIQUE AND SMASH 'EM TO JELLY!!

!

ピクッ

SHEESH... AND AFTER I THOUGHT I'D FINALLY CAUGHT UP TO HIM.

NARUTO... EVERY TIME I SEE HIM HE'S GOT SOME NEW TECHNIQUE UP HIS SLEEVE.

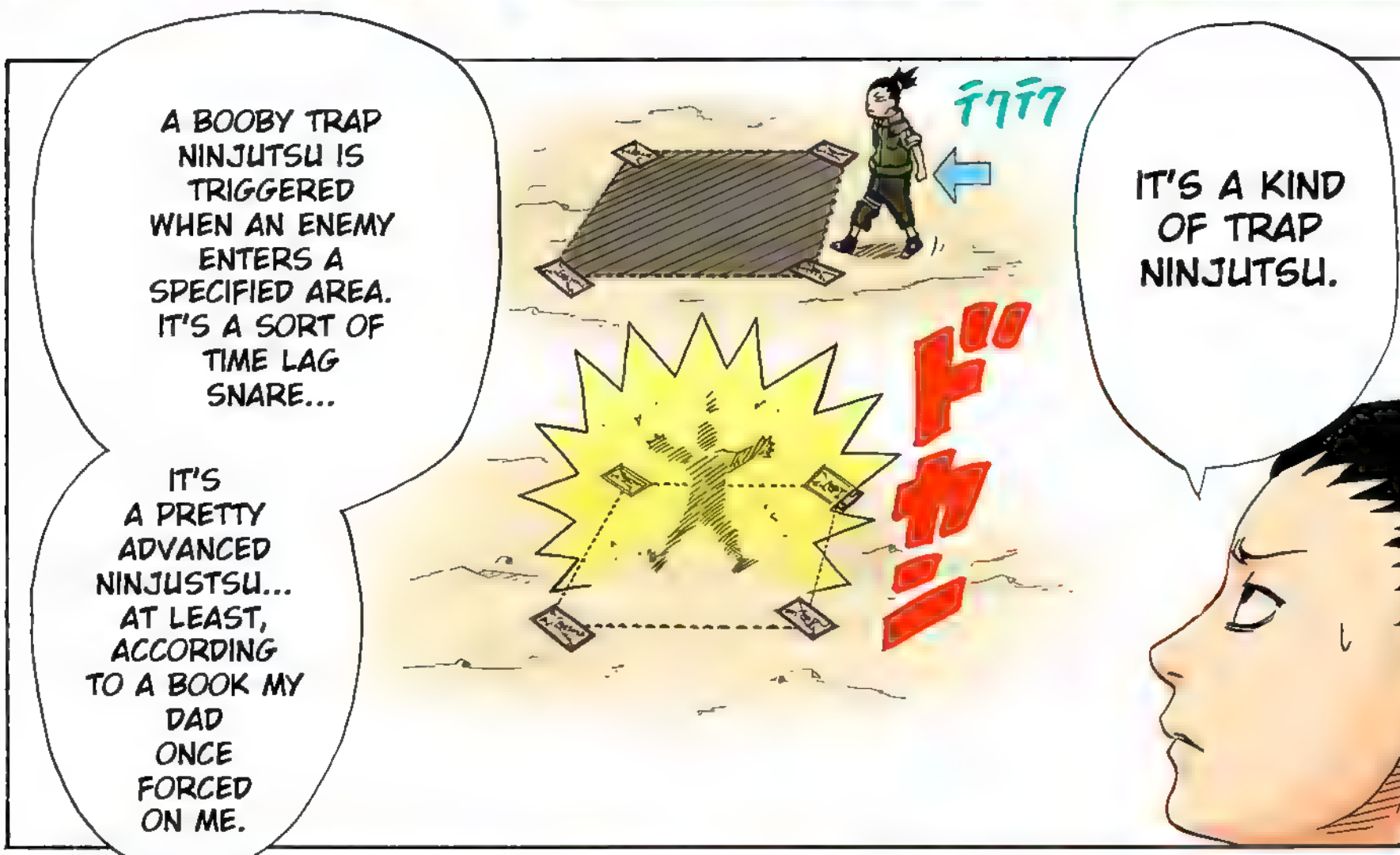
THIS PLACE REEKS OF THE ENEMY!

HEY!

STOP, EVERY-ONE!!

LOOK UP THERE, CARE-FULLY.

THEY'RE FORMING A PERIMETER BARRIER.
A LETTER BOMB... I SEE FIVE MORE...
PERI-METER BARRIER ?


A BOOBY TRAP NINJUTSU IS TRIGGERED WHEN AN ENEMY ENTERS A SPECIFIED AREA. IT'S A SORT OF TIME LAG SNARE...
IT'S A PRETTY ADVANCED NINJUSTSU... AT LEAST, ACCORDING TO A BOOK MY DAD ONCE FORCED ON ME.
ドカーン
IT'S A KIND OF TRAP NINJUTSU.

THEN WE'D BETTER MAKE A DETOUR ...
GREAT ...

HEY NARUTO, LOOK OUT FOR THE WIRE!

WIRE AGAIN?

COME ON, NARUTO! DON'T TRIP ON IT!!

YEAH...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THEY DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO REFINE THEM.

URRGH. THESE TRAPS ARE EVERY-WHERE.

I KNOW, I SAW IT!

WAIT, NARUTO!

HUH ?!

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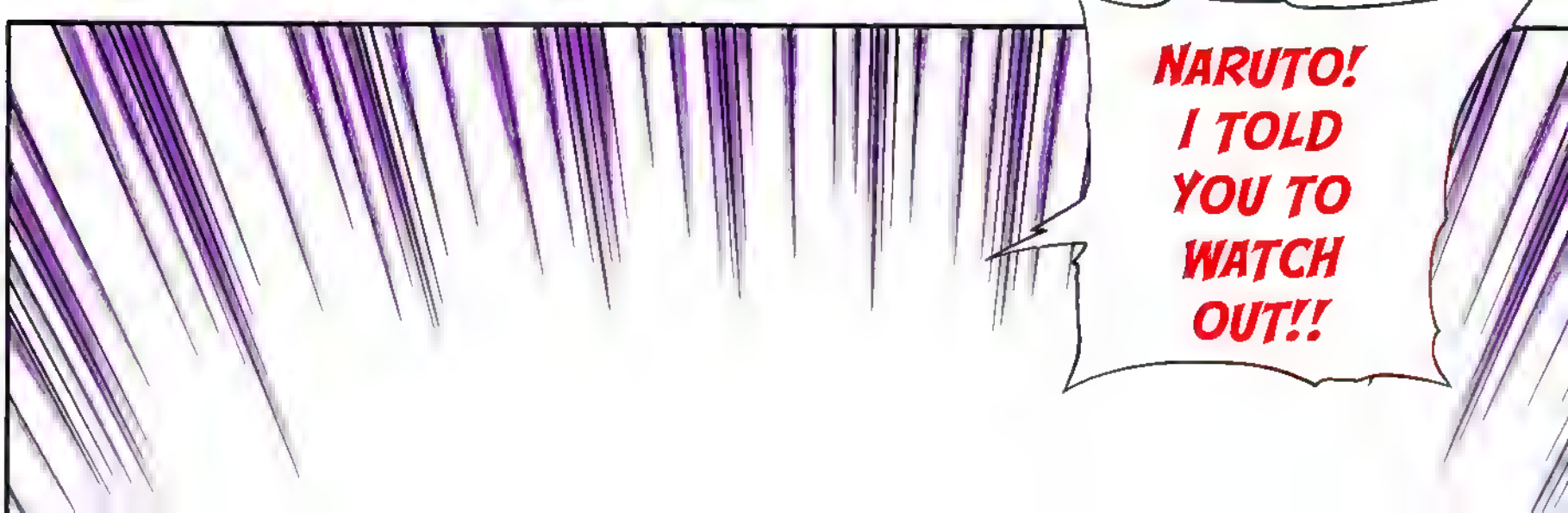
SHADOW POSSESSION TECHNIQUE! I GOT YOU IN THE NICK OF TIME...


NARUTO! I TOLD YOU TO WATCH OUT!!

...MAKING IT HARD TO SEE.

THE FIRST WIRE REFLECTS THE LIGHT SO IT'S EASY TO NOTICE, BUT THE SECOND ONE IS FROSTED GREEN...

IT'S DOUBLE JEOPARDY.

YEAH... SEE THAT?

THEY MIGHT BE WOUNDED... OR IT'S JUST A RUSE...

THEY'RE TAKING A BREAK.

WHICH MEANS ...

FOR SOMEONE IN HASTE, IT'S AN ELABORATE TRAP.

BYAKUGAN!

GOT THEM!

SORRY, NARUTO, IT'S MY TURN TO SHOW OFF MY LATEST TECHNIQUE.

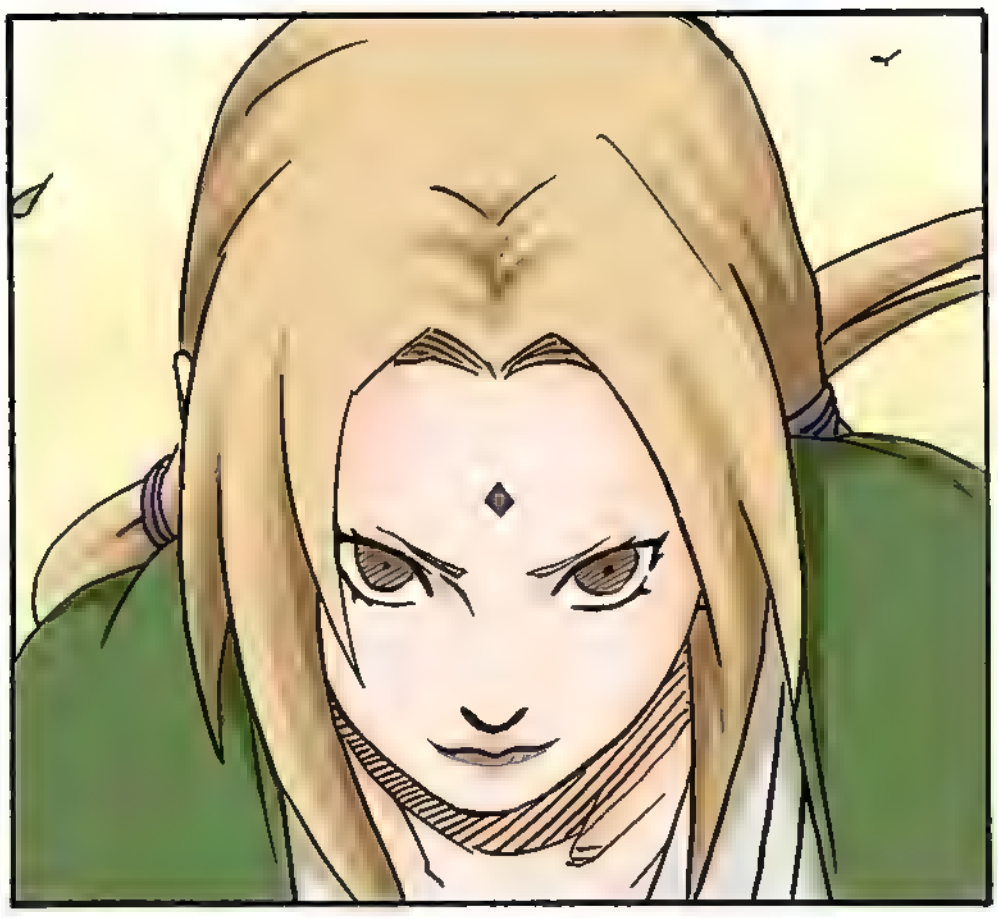
I'M GONNA BRING BACK SASUKE FOR SURE!

YEE-HAW!

WE'LL HIT OUR TARGET... JUST AS SOON AS I KNOCK OUT A STRATEGY...

DON'T BE IMPATIENT.

WHAT ABOUT ME?!



FAILURE...?!

IT CAN'T BE HELPED.

FIGHTING IN OUR SECOND STATE TOOK A TOLL ON ALL OF US.

HERE WE ARE, IN SUCH A HURRY...

AND WHAT ARE WE DOING? KICKING OUR FEET UP.

DRAT.

WELL, THEY WERE JONIN, AND TWO OF THEM TO BOOT.

IF WE'D HELD BACK, WE'D BE DEAD RIGHT NOW.

THE TOUGH PART IS BEING UNABLE TO USE OUR BODIES FOR A WHILE...

KIBA, MAKE SURE YOU TIME THE SMOKE BOMB ACCURATELY. IT'S IMPERATIVE.

YEP.

ALL RIGHT. LET'S SPLIT INTO TWO GROUPS.

ZZZ

ZZZ

!

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LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE STILL UNAWARE.

HEY. WHERE'S SASUKE?

!?

MY GUESS IS...

HMM ...

IS HE DEAD?!

HE'S PROBABLY IN THAT COFFIN.

封

TRUE ENOUGH...

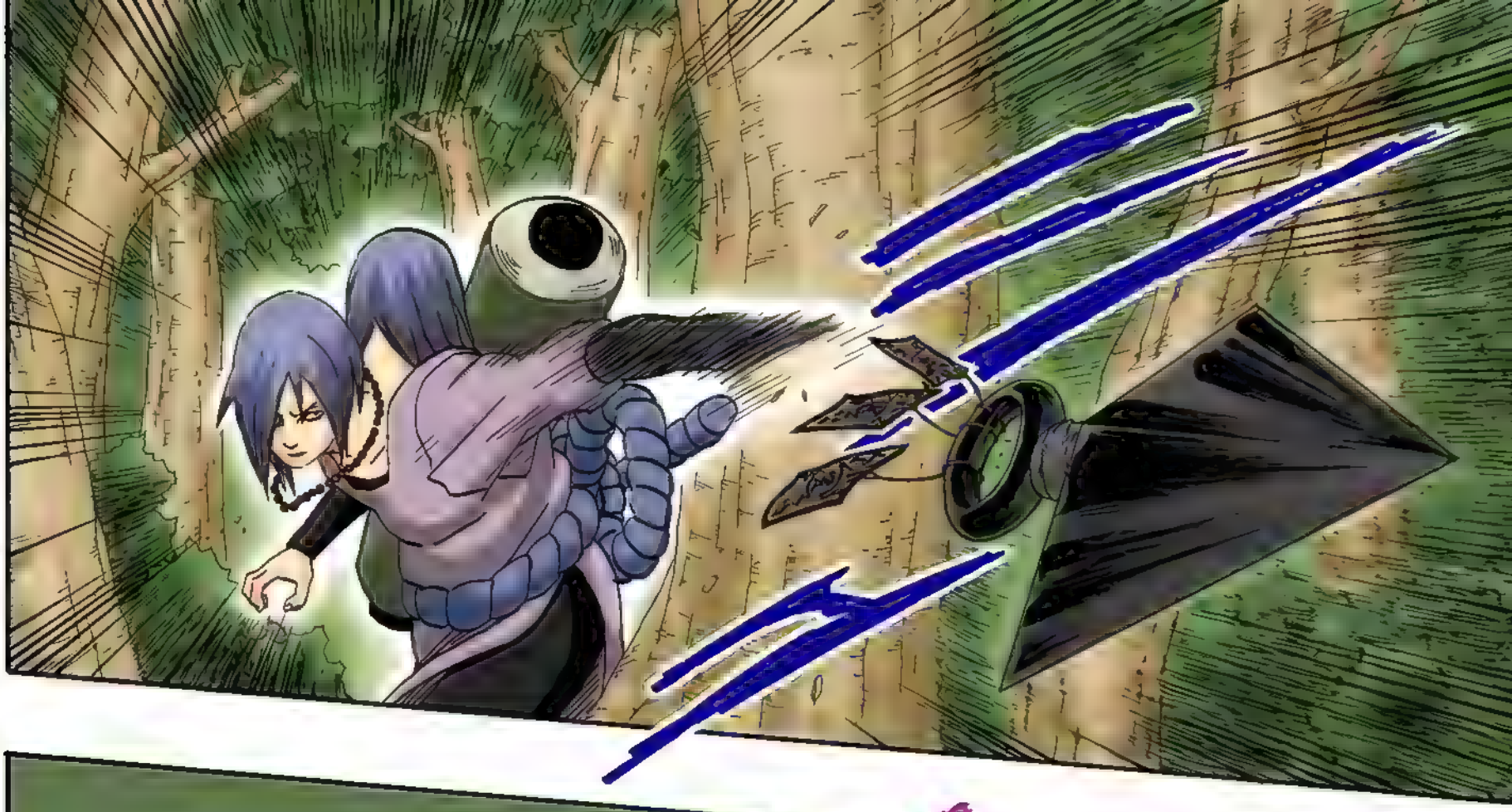
.....

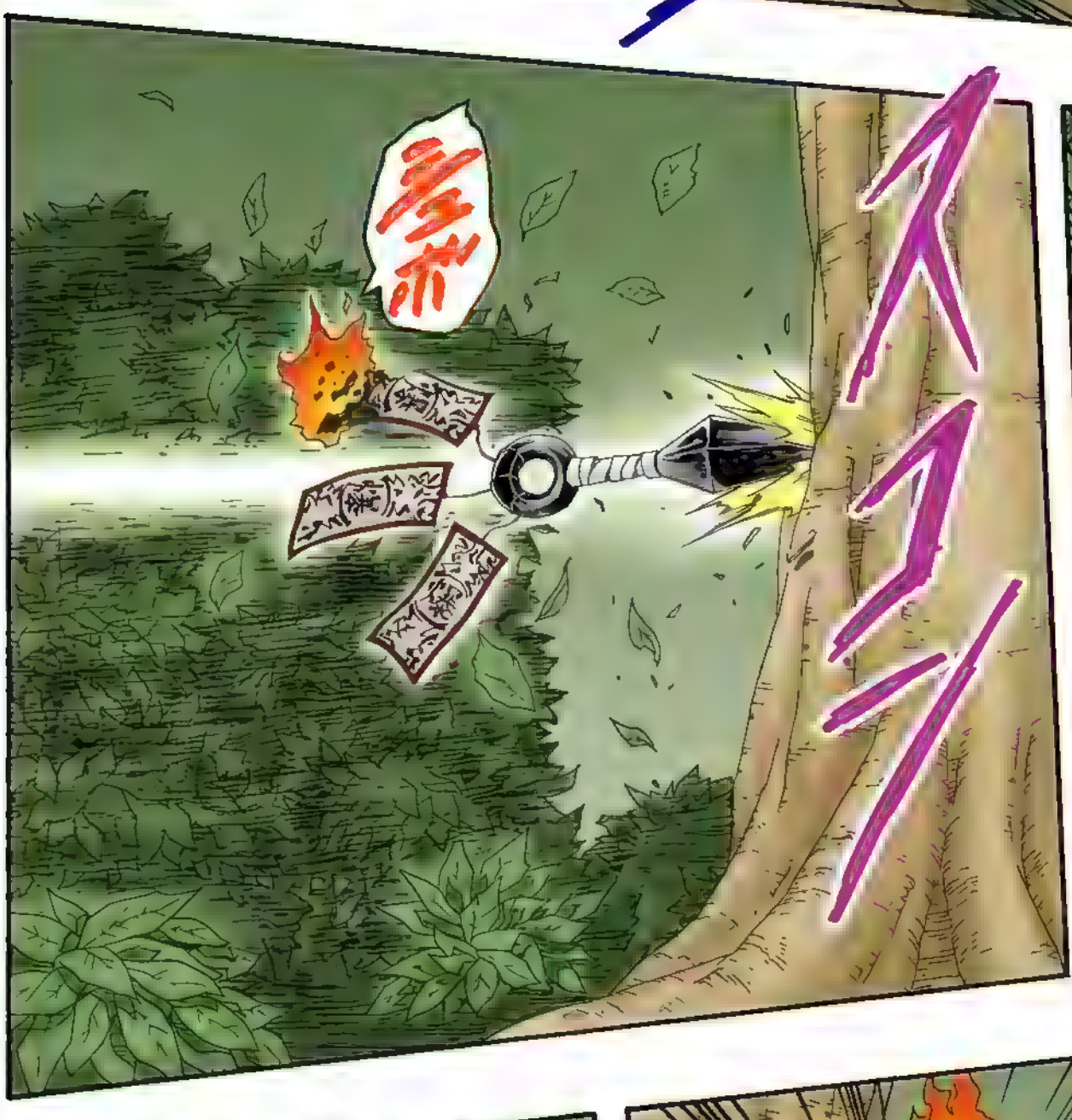
...WOULDN'T KILL HIM SO ABRUPTLY.

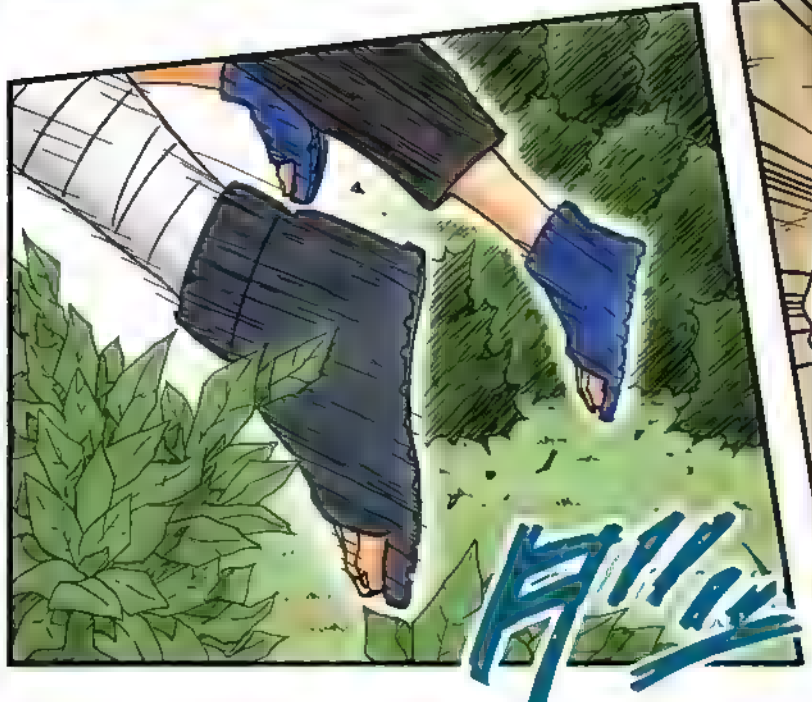
I SAY, ANYONE WHO WANTED SASUKE THAT BAD...

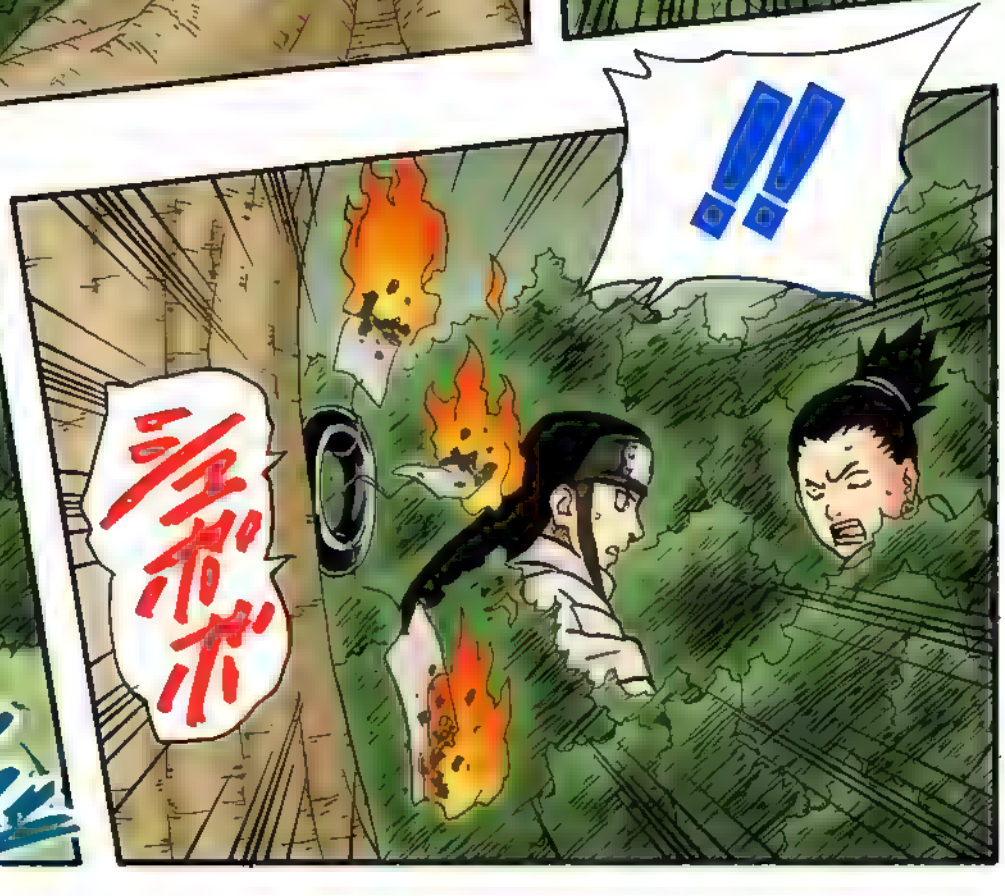
封

THE COFFIN IS SEALED WITH BARRIER NINJUTSU. IT'S HARD TO SEE THROUGH...









FIZZ

UGAH!

UGH!!

URG.

WELL, WELL. THE THINGS YOU FIND IN THE UNDER-BRUSH...

I WAS EXPECTING A SNAKE. TURNS OUT IT WAS JUST A COUPLE OF BUGS.

ゴボッ ゴボ

WE'RE HERE TO NEGO-TIATE.

WE DIDN'T COME TO FIGHT!

HANG ON A SEC!!

NOW JUST WAIT!

K

!

!

THEN WHAT'S YOUR EXPLAN-ATION FOR THIS?!

HMPH.

WUUAA-H!!

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HEE HEE... WHAT DO YOU INTEND WITH THAT SMOKE BOMB? WHATEVER YOU DO, THERE'S NO EXCAPE FROM ME.

AWWWG ...

CRUD ...

AND THEY'RE COBWEBBED ALL OVER THIS PLACE.

THINNER THAN HAIR, STRONGER THAN WIRE, MY THREADS ARE PRACTICALLY INVISIBLE.

.....

HEH... NEVER EXPECTED TO FACE A TALENT LIKE YOURS...

GEE WHIZ...

IT WAS TRIPLE-WIRED...

THAT TWO-WIRE TRAP...

CHALK ONE UP FOR THE SHADOW POSSES-SION!

YEAH, KIBA! SHIKA-MARU! NICE ONE!

W... WHA?

MY BODY...

ガニ

I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU FOOLS!!

OH DEAR.

THOUGH I ADMIT YOU MADE IT EASY FOR ME. I MUST THANK YOU.

BUT YOU KNOW... I'VE GOT A FEW TALENTS MYSELF.

HEH...

WHERE IN THE...
URK!
!
I ALSO HAVE A POWER LIKE THIS.
THE THING IS...
WHOA !!
EARTH STYLE! DORO DOMU! BARRIER !!

ドカ

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NUTS!

HMPH... DEVOUR 'EM, THEN CATCH UP...

WE'LL GO ON AHEAD.

THEY'RE MINE.

I GOTTA GET BACK MY ENERGY, AND ALL...

JUST MAKE IT FAST.

OKAY!

GET US OUT, DARN IT!

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MOVE IT, NARUTO!

WHOA!

TSUUGA! TUNNELING FANG!!

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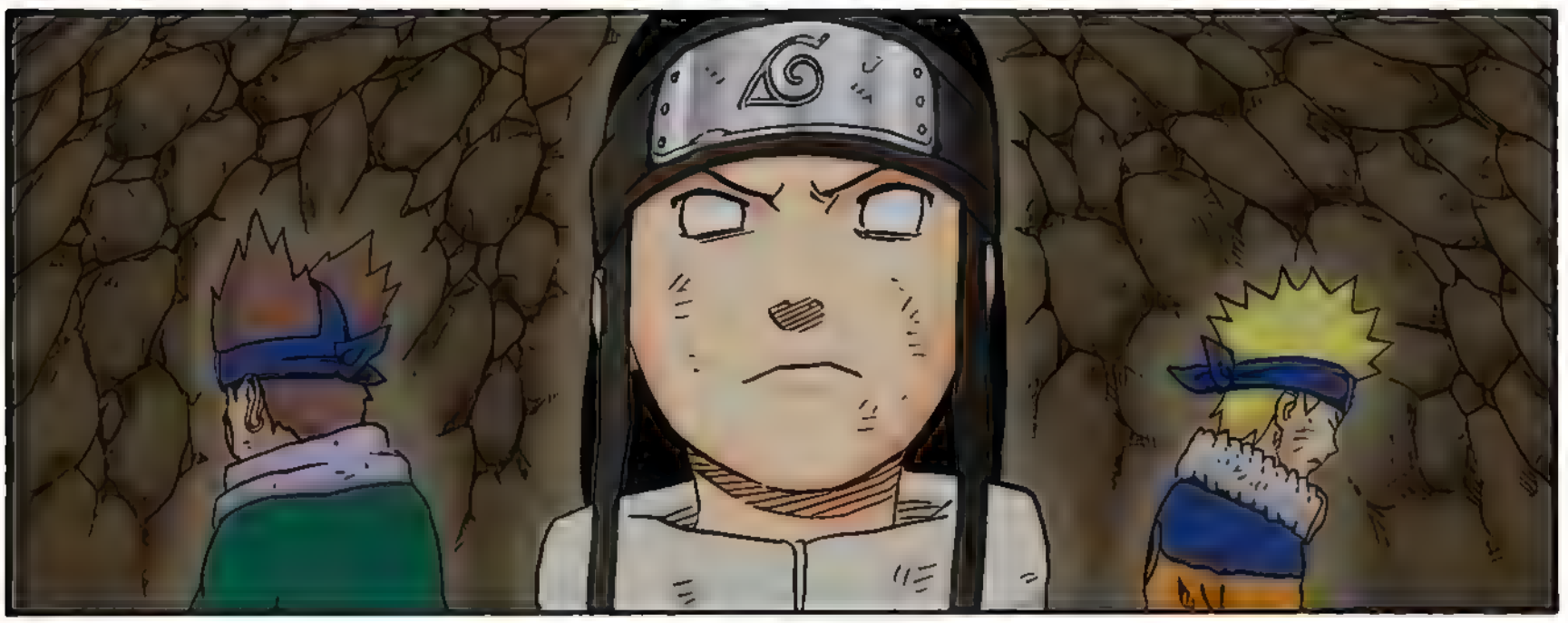
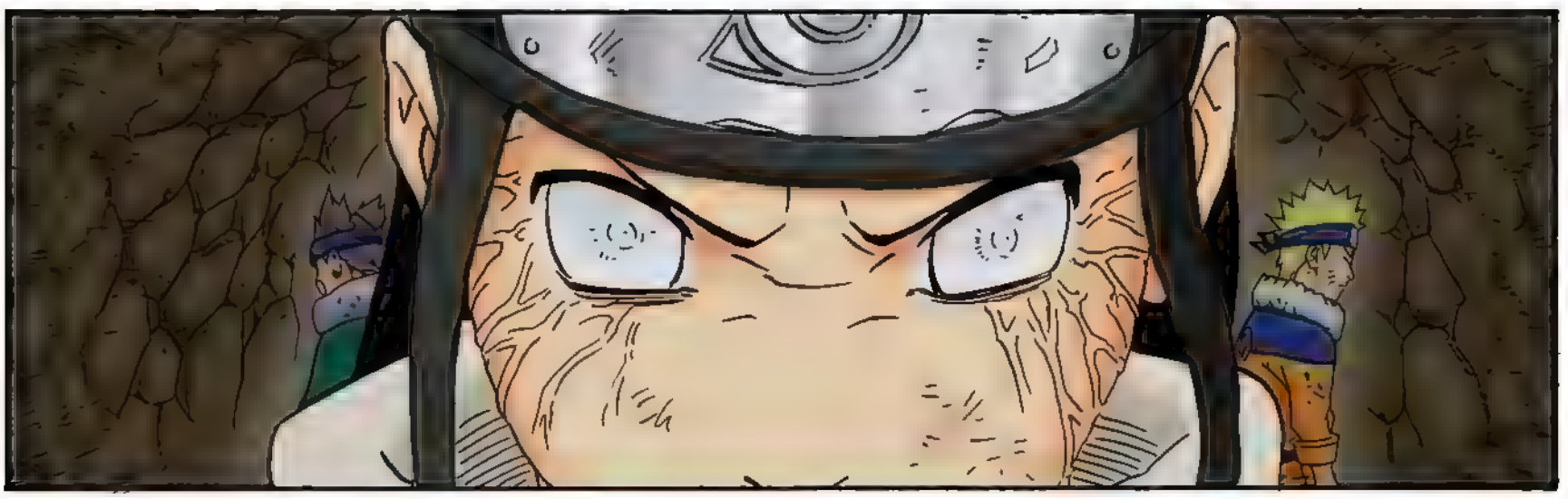
GET US OUT!!

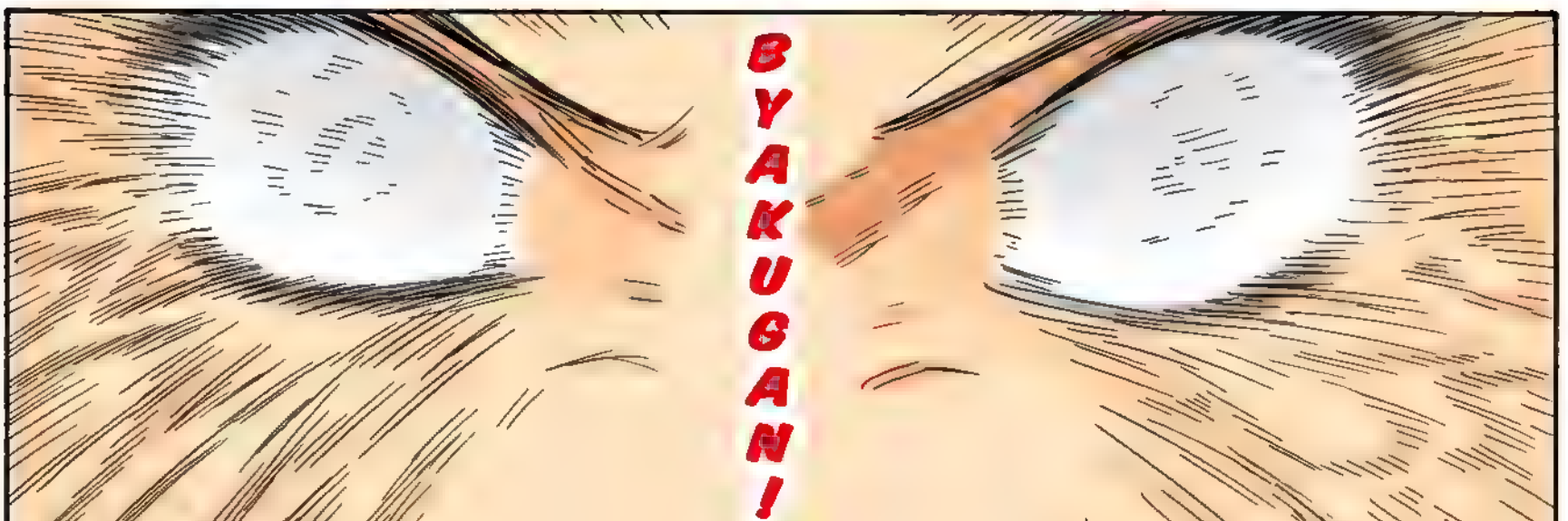
YEAH, I SAW IT.

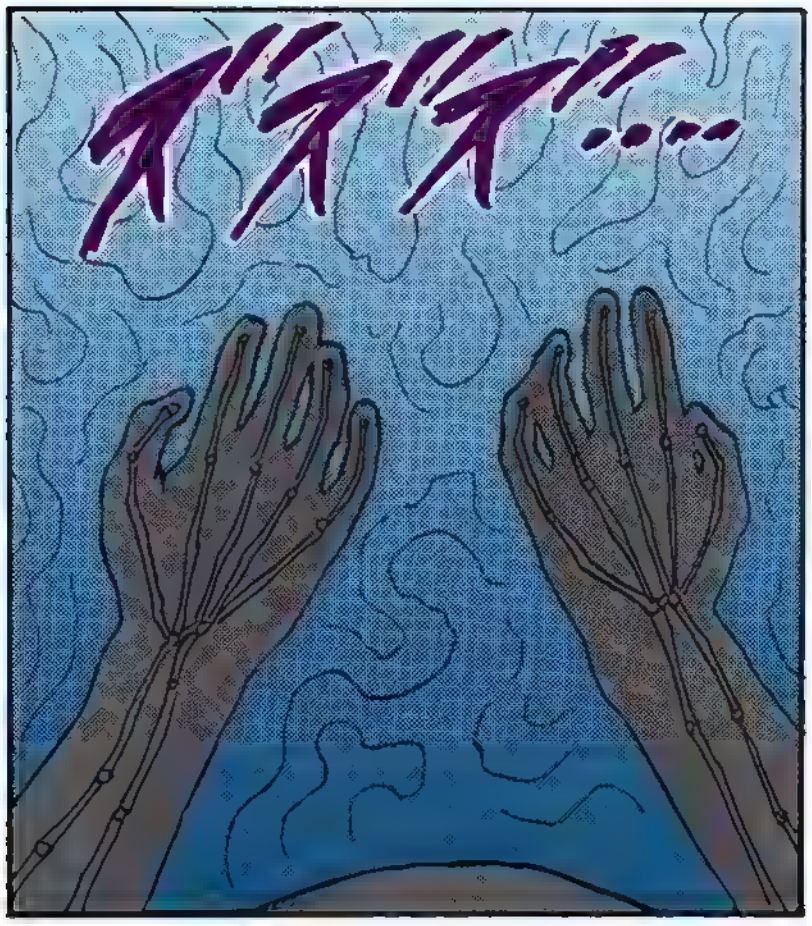
HEY...

LOOKS LIKE IT'S MORE THAN JUST A DIRT WALL...






BYAKUGAN!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WHAT? WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?
OH... HRM. IT'S...

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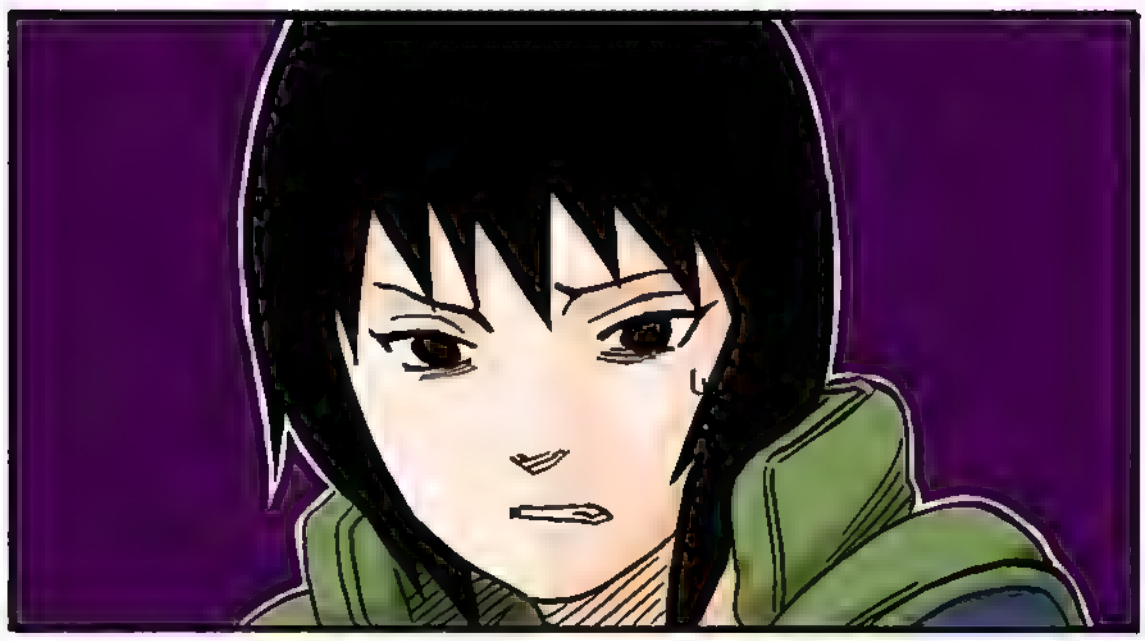
HE'S SIPHONING OUR CHAKRA LIKE LAMP OIL...
IT'S BAD...



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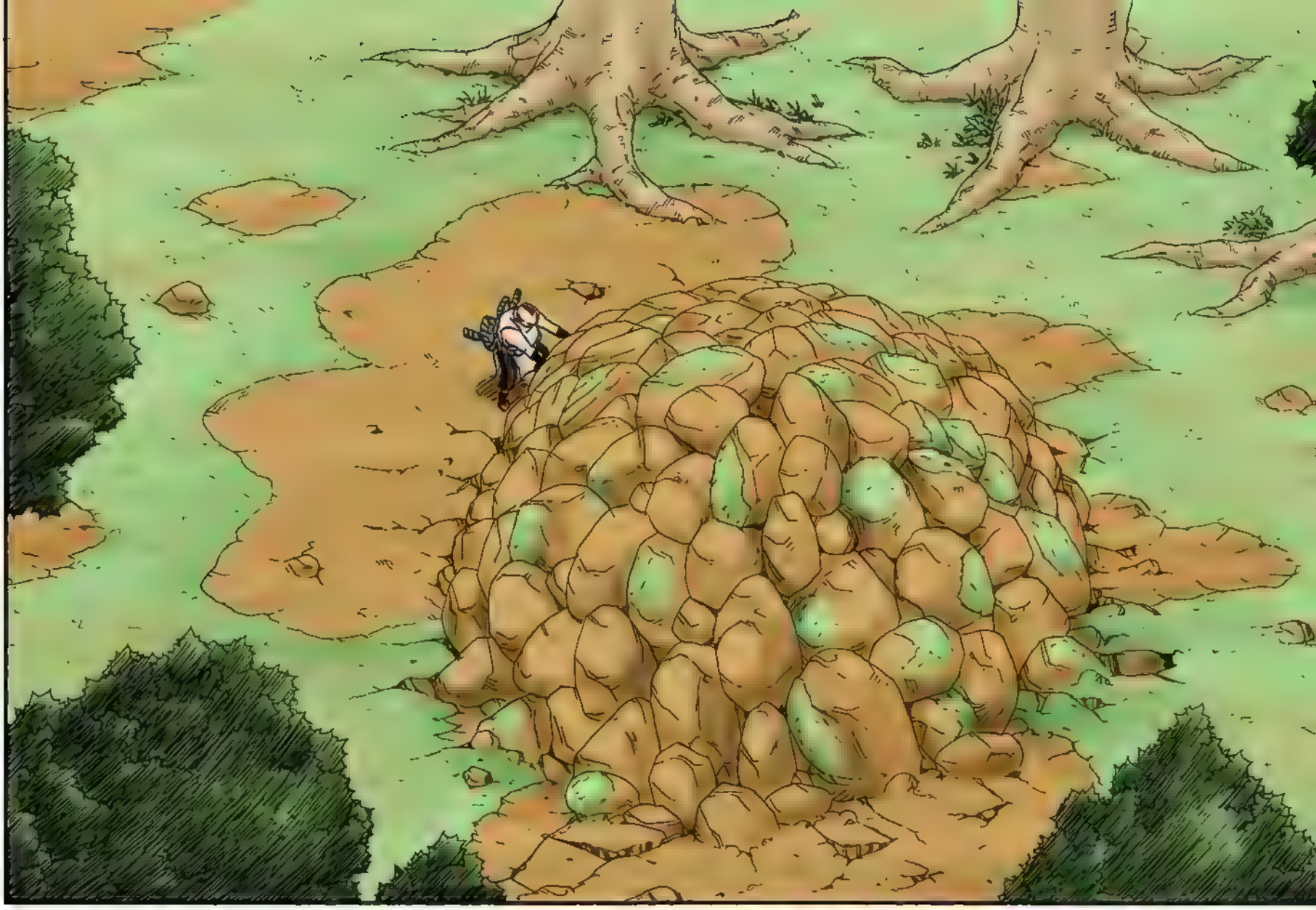
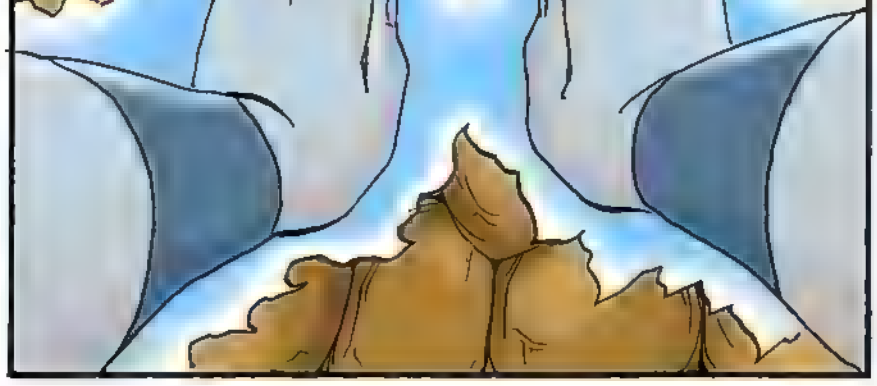
187 : THE PLEA...!!



HEH HEH... THANKS FOR THE FEAST.
SO MUCH CHAKRA. I FEEL LIKE A KID IN A CANDY STORE.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IT FEELS LIKE I'M BEING SUCKED DRY...

URK...

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BEFORE OUR CHAKRA'S ALL GONE, I'M GONNA OPEN UP AN AIRSHAFT!

DRAT! GUESS I'VE GOT NO CHOICE!

GRRRR W...!

WUFF!

AKAMARU, DIN-DIN! HERE'S A MILITARY RATIONS PELLET...

GRRWL!

GWROAR!

NINJA ART OF HUMAN MIMICRY!!

RURF!

パク

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NINJA ART OF BEAST MIMICRY!!

AND I'LL DO THE...

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GATSUUGA!
FANG
OVER
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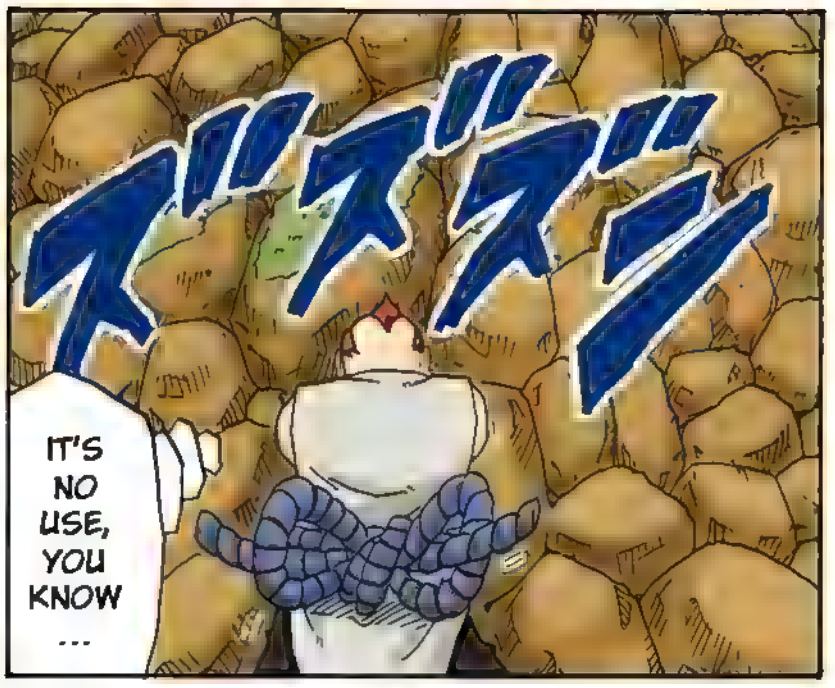
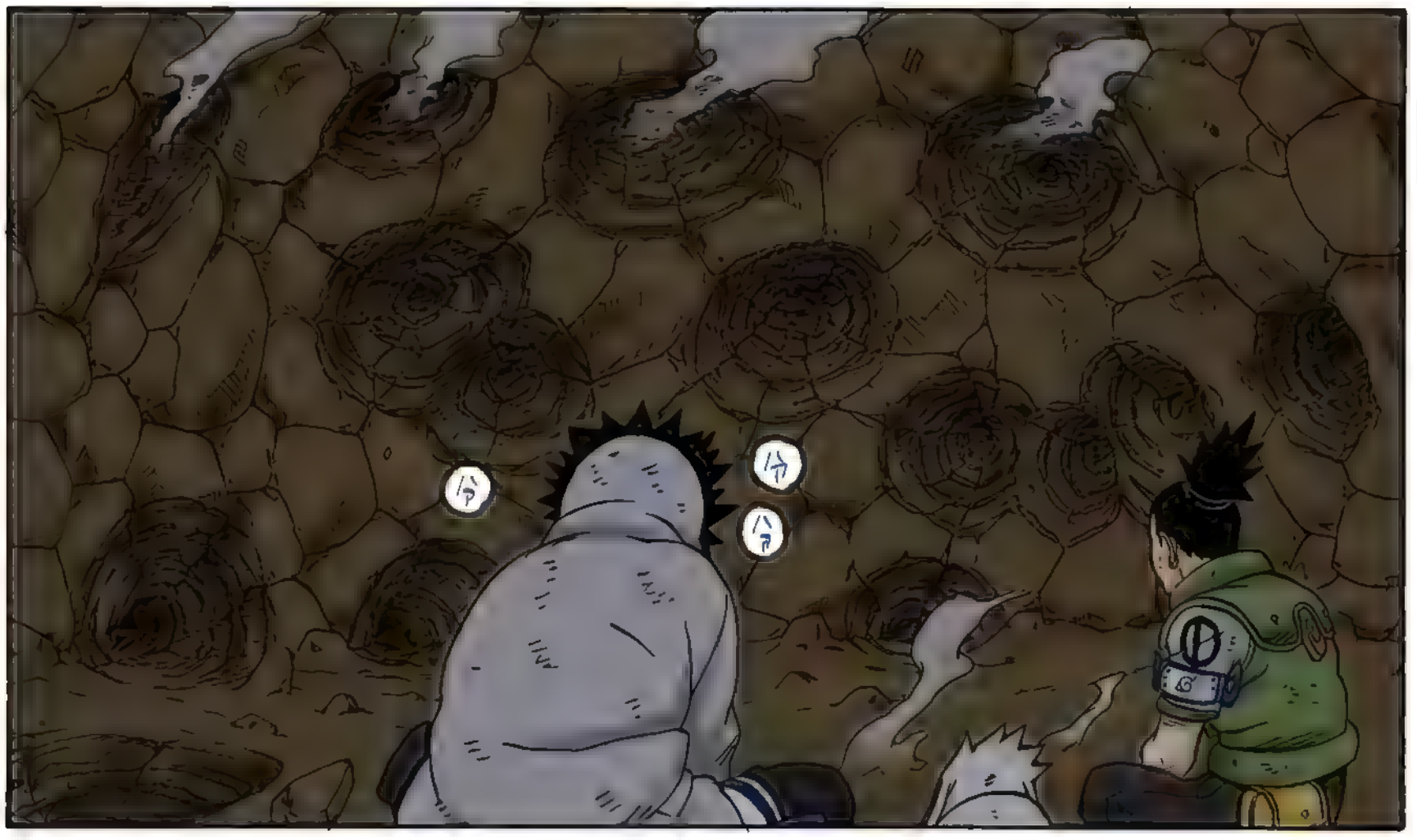
MORE!
MORE!

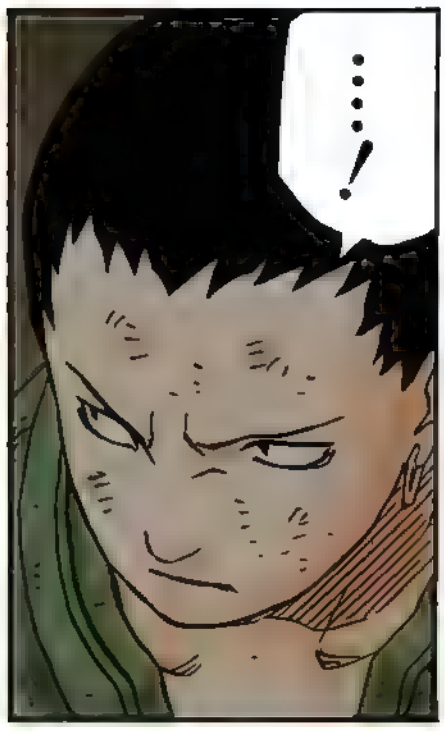
A!!

A!!

WHINE...


IT'S NO USE, YOU KNOW ...




...!

EVERY DENT WE MAKE GETS RESTORED!
INCLUDING THE GROUND.
ARGH!

ズズズ...

.....

ズズズ...

RASEN-GAN! SPIRAL CHAKRA SPHERE!!

ドドドド

THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING, WE WON'T LAST TEN MINUTES. WHEN OUR CHAKRA'S GONE...

IN THIS CONDITION, I COULD NEVER PULL OFF A HARD-TO-CONTROL ATTACK LIKE THE SPIRAL CHAKRA SPHERE...

URK. HE IS SUCK-ING IT AWAY...

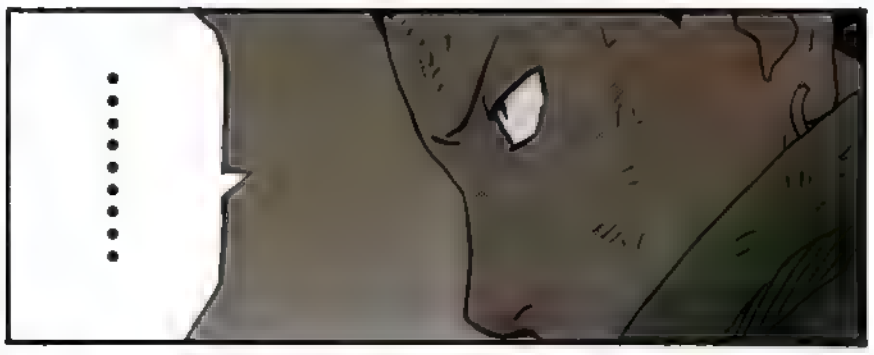
フォン...

I WANT TO SPEAK TO YOUR LEADER!!

HEY, LISTEN!

!

!



SO PLEASE LET US OUT OF HERE!!

WE ADMIT DEFEAT. WE GIVE UP SASUKE!

HEH... WHAT FUN. BUT YOU'RE MY MEAL. I CAN'T LET YOU OUT.

IN-FIGHTING?

SHIKAMARU... WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?

HEY...

JUST LET ME OUT. ME ALONE.

I'M TIRED OF FIGHTING. IT'S TOO MUCH TROUBLE.

THEN... NEVER MIND THE REST...

.....

YOU JERK! DO YOU HAVE THE FAINTEST CLUE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?!

I TAKE IT YOU'RE THE LEADER? NEVER THOUGHT I'D HEAR YOU BEG FOR YOUR LIFE!

KWA HA HA HA...

.....!

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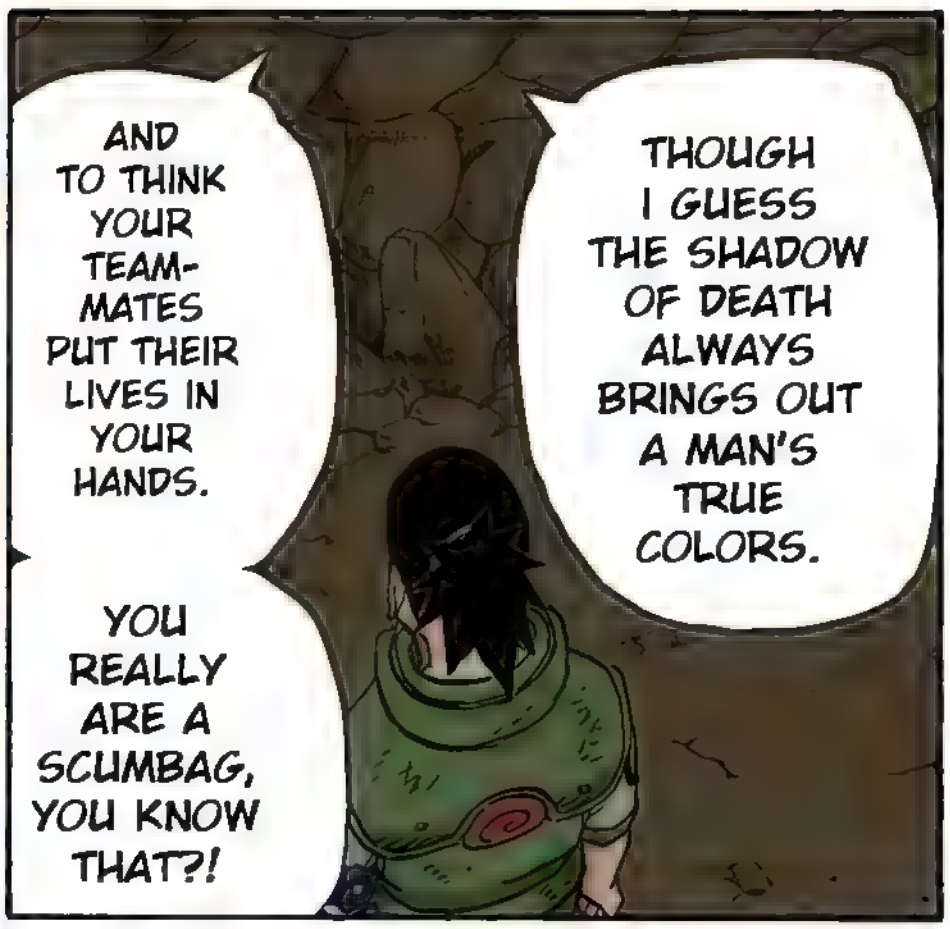
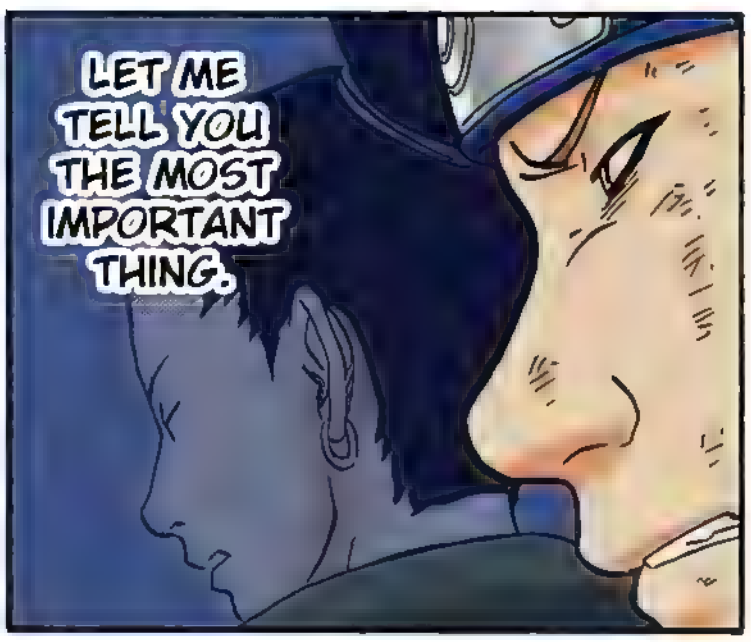

THOUGH I GUESS THE SHADOW OF DEATH ALWAYS BRINGS OUT A MAN'S TRUE COLORS.
AND TO THINK YOUR TEAM-MATES PUT THEIR LIVES IN YOUR HANDS.
YOU REALLY ARE A SCUMBAG, YOU KNOW THAT?!

NO, YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE. YOU DESERVE TO DIE.
DESERTING SASUKE, SELLING OUT YOUR TEAMMATES... SO THAT'S THE CHUNIN OF KONOHA, HUH? HEH HEH...


LET ME TELL YOU THE MOST IMPORTANT THING.

LOOK, YOU DUNCE, HE CAN'T GET OUT. THAT'S WHY HE'S BEGGING.
TO THINK I HAD FAITH IN YOU! I WON'T MAKE THAT MISTAKE AGAIN. GET OUT, SHIKAMARU!

BUT LIKE US, SASUKE IS A SHINOBI OF KONOHA. HE IS OUR COM-RADE!
THERE-FORE I WILL STAKE MY LIFE TO RESCUE HIM. THAT'S THE KONOHA WAY.

SHUT UP, ALL OF YOU!

.....

! !

SO WHEN CHOJI LOSES HIS TEMPER, HE BINGES ON JUNK FOOD.

SHEESH... THERE'S ANOTHER USELESS ONE.

IS THIS REALLY THE BEST TIME FOR A SNACK?!

バリバリ!!

ポテト

!

THE WALL IS BRIMMING WITH CHAKRA. YOU SAW WHAT HAPPENS.

EVEN IF YOU DAMAGE IT A LITTLE, IT WILL REBUILD ITSELF IMMEDITATELY.

DON'T.

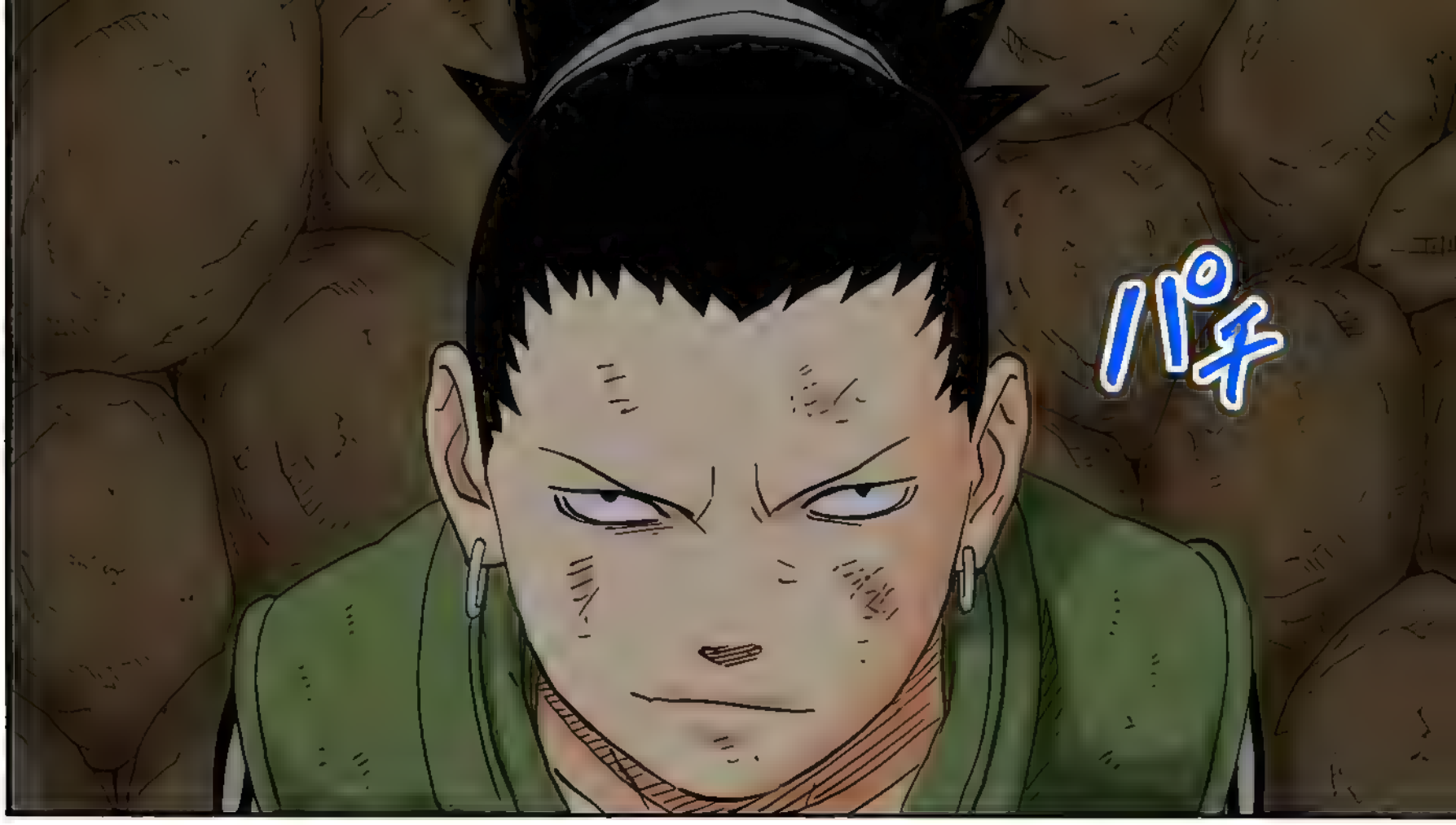
I'VE GOT NO CHOICE... I'M USING SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGERS!

BUT... LOOK AT HIM.

モグ モグ

TAIJUTSU WITH DESTRUCTIVE POWER STRONGER THAN MINE. THAT WOULD BE...CHOJI.

IN SHORT... UNLESS IT'S A TAIJUTSU STYLE ATTACK THAT CAN BREAK DOWN THE WALL WITH A SINGLE BLOW, IT'S OF NO USE.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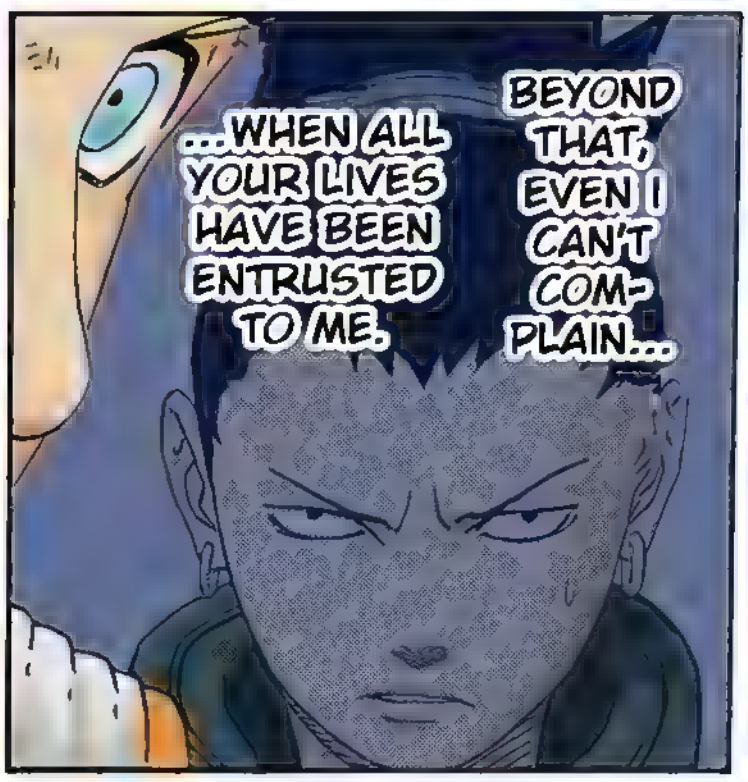
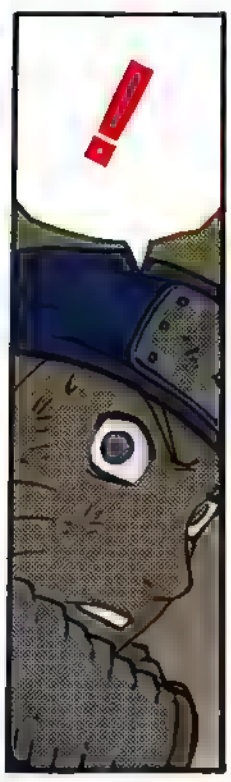
REMEMBER WHAT SHIKAMARU SAID WHEN HE PULLED US TOGETHER!!
NARUTO, YOU REALLY ARE CLUELESS, AREN'T YOU!

SURE...
NEJI...DO YOU MIND USING THE REST OF YOUR CHAKRA TO OBSERVE THE SPOT ON THE WALL BEHIND YOU AND CHOJI?
OH CLAM IT, SHIKA-MARU!!

CHOJI, DON'T SPEAK OUT LOUD FROM HERE ON.


...WHEN ALL YOUR LIVES HAVE BEEN ENTRUSTED TO ME.
BEYOND THAT, EVEN I CAN'T COM-PLAIN...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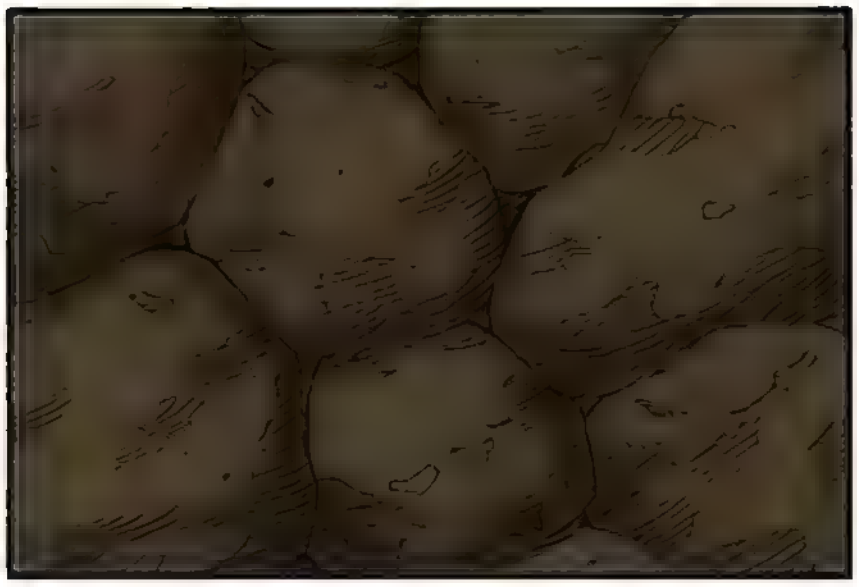

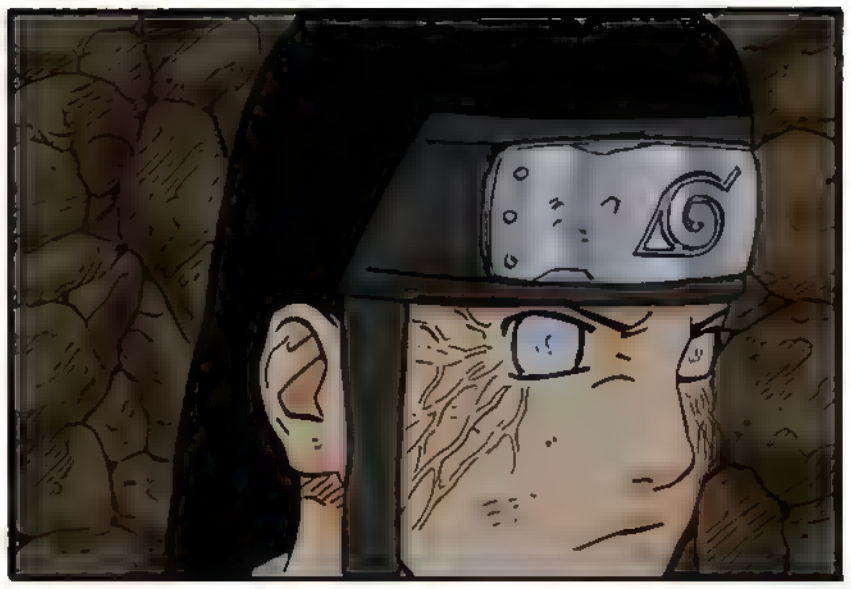

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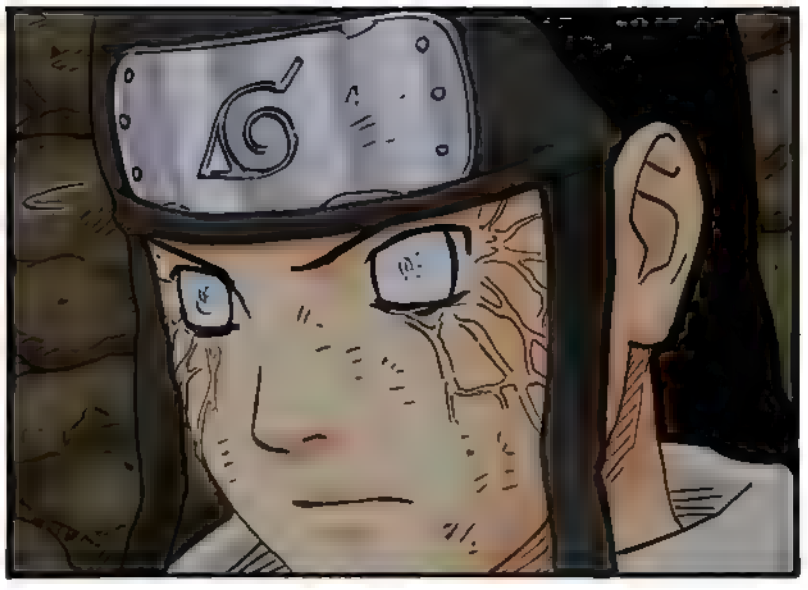
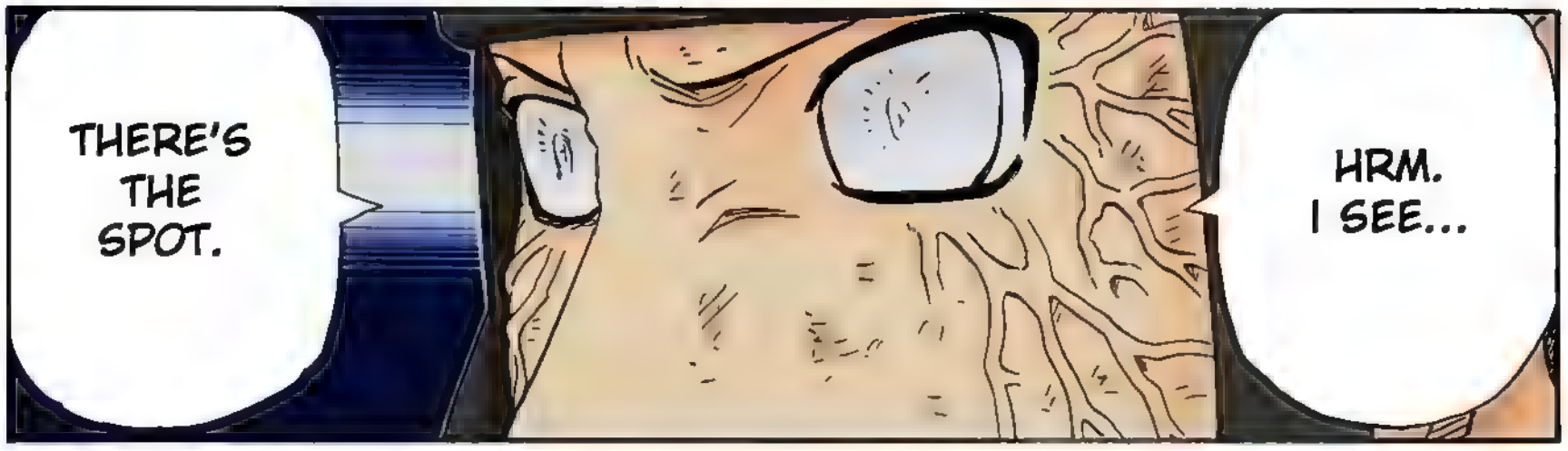
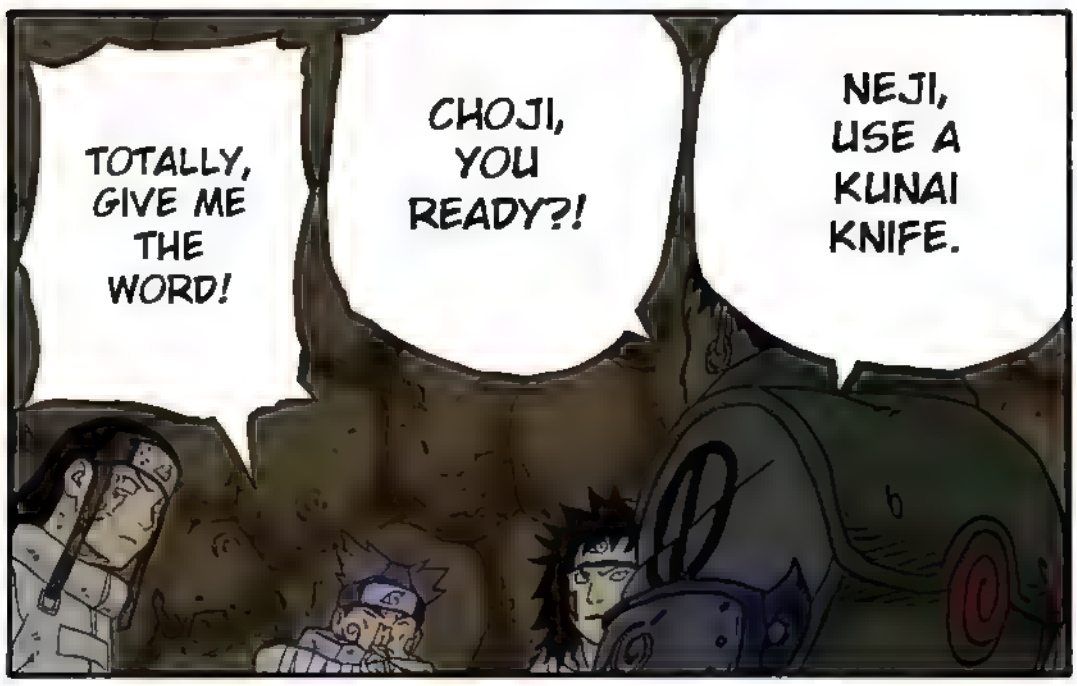



THERE'S THE SPOT.
HRM. I SEE...


TOTALLY, GIVE ME THE WORD!
CHOJI, YOU READY?!
NEJI, USE A KUNAI KNIFE.

?
?

BAIKA NO JUTSU! THE ART OF EXPAN— SION!!

STILL, EVEN THIS SEEMINGLY IMPENETRABLE WALL MAY HAVE A WEAK SPOT, WITH A LOWER CHAKRA SATURATION... OR SO SHIKAMARU SPECULATED.

AS I SAID EARLIER, THE ENTIRE WALL IS SOAKED IN CHAKRA.

WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?!

I NOTICED THAT SOME DAMAGE WAS REPAIRED FASTER THAN OTHERS.

WHEN KIBA AND AKAMARU ATTACKED THE WALL...

HOW... HOW ON EARTH DID YOU FIGURE THAT OUT?

FURTHERMORE, BY SKILLFULLY DRAWING OUT A CONVERSATION, SHIKAMARU MANAGED TO DETERMINE THE ENEMY'S POSITION.

THE THEORY BEING...

SLOWER TO RECOVER MEANS A LOWER SATURATION OF CHAKRA.

JIROBO'S CHAKRA

THE AREA FURTHEST FROM THE ENEMY...

...HAS TO BE THE WEAKEST. HE JUST NEEDED TO CONFIRM IT.

OKAY! LET'S DO IT!

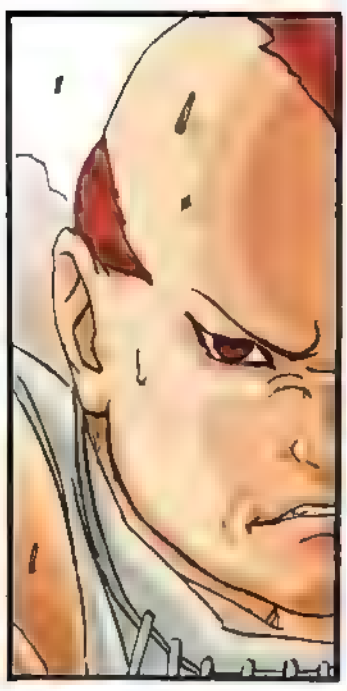
WELL, THAT WOULD EXPLAIN WHAT HE WAS DOING.

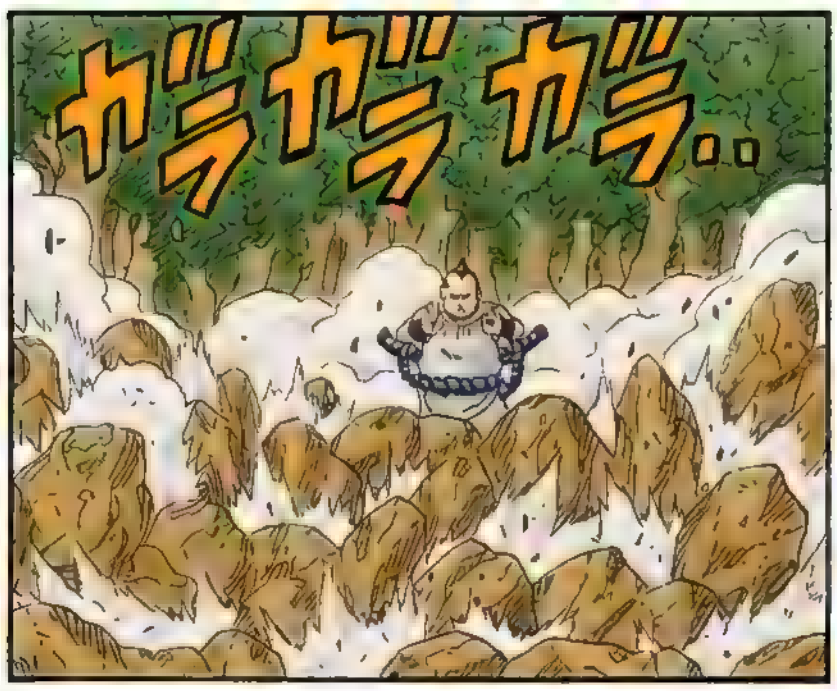
AHA. SO IF YOU CAN'T FOOL YOUR FRIENDS, YOU CAN'T FOOL YOUR ENEMY, HUH?

HE MUST HAVE BEEN CHOWING DOWN TO REPLENISH HIS CHAKRA...

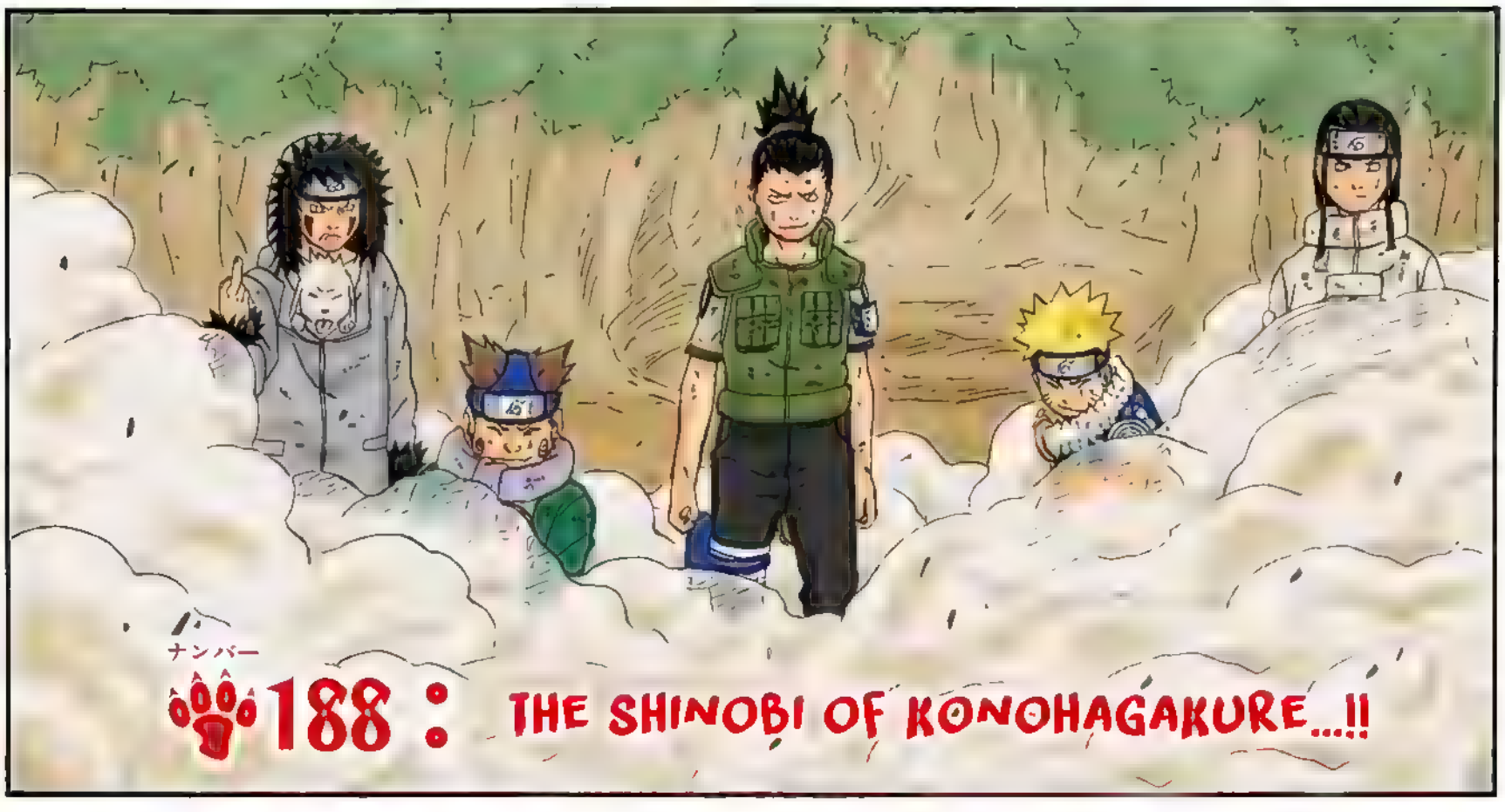
CHOJI UNDER-STOOD THE PLAN FROM THE START...

WHAT ?!
!!
ズズガ
カッ
カッ
NIKUDAN SENSHA! THE HUMAN JUGGER-NAUT!!!
YOU'RE AWE-SOME.
HEH HEH.
I KNEW IT... CHOJI...
コゴゴゴ...




ガラガラガラ…

URK...


ナンバー
188：THE SHINOBI OF KONOHAGAKURE...!!

ナンバー
188：木ノ葉隠れの忍…!!
188: THE SHINOBI OF KONOHAGAKURE...!!

NARUTO
-ナルト-

SO YOU BROKE FREE OF MY BARRIER NINJUTSU.

THAT'S PRETTY GOOD, KIDS.

URK...

!

GA!!

HOLD IT!!

NOW THAT WE'RE OUT, WE'VE GOT THE UPPER HAND!

!

ME! LET ME HAVE HIM!!

!

!

AND IF THAT HAPPENS, OUR POWER WILL BE USELESS ON ITS OWN.

IF WE TAKE TOO LONG, SASUKE WILL CROSS THE BORDER.

IT'S RISKY TO FIGHT HIM HEAD-ON RIGHT NOW.

WE MAY BE FIVE-ON-ONE, BUT WITH OUR CHAKRA DRAINED HE CAN DRAW OUT THE BATTLE FOR A WHILE.

.....

SO WHAT'RE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?!

.....

WE CAN BEAT HIM!

WE BROKE HIS BARRIER.

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ズン

WELL, MORE LIKE A HALF-DECENT APPETIZER. BUT ANYWAY.

WRONG, SMARTY-PANTS... YOU'RE MY MEAL, IS WHAT YOU ARE!

WE'RE IN FOR SOME-THING BIG!!

LOOK OUT, GUYS!

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UGH!!

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BEHIND YOU!!
!
!
!
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VANISHED?!!
!
EARTH STYLE! BALL OF GRAVES !!
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HYAAA !!
!
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!

HE!

WH
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A!!

NIKUDAN SENSHA! THE HUMAN JUGGER-NAUT!!

!

CHOJI!

WHOA!

!

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UNGH ...

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UGH!!

SHO-SHITSU! KNEE SLAM!!

UGAH!

TOKKEN! SHOULDER CHARGE!!

ボン

YOU BIG JERK!

SHOW-ING OFF, ARE WE?!

ガッ

GUYS, HOLD IT!!

NEJI, I'M MAKING YOU SECOND IN COMMAND.

YOU TAKE KIBA AND CHOJI, AND TRACK SASUKE.

WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME. LET'S SPLIT INTO TWO GROUPS...

THE WAY THIS IS GOING, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO CATCH UP TO SASUKE.

AS FOR THIS GUY, NARUTO AND I WILL MANAGE!

KAGESHIBARI NO JUTSU! SHADOW POSSESSION TECHNIQUE!! AGAIN?

HEH... AND YOU'RE THE SQUAD LEADER, RIGHT?

DO YOU HONESTLY THINK SPLITTING UP PUTS YOU IN A BETTER POSITION?

IT'S A USELESS TECHNIQUE. IT'S NO BETTER THAN A CHEAP STAGE TRICK.

トロン

HAVING A NITWIT FOR A LEADER SURE MAKES THINGS TOUGH...

...FOR HIS SUBORDI-NATES.

……

ムクッ…

I'LL BE NICE AND KILL YOU BEFORE YOU EVEN NOTICE WHAT YOU'RE SUFFERING.

WELL, SCUMBAGS, GIVEN THE SHADOW-LOVING, DEPRESSING MORON YOU WORK UNDER....

!

HE'S MINE!

I'LL KICK YOUR...

YOU PIG! SHUT YOUR FILTHY TRAP!

.....!

CHOJI...

I'LL TAKE HIM!!!

.....

.....

!?

!

SHIKAMARU... DIVIDE UP THESE MILITARY RATIONS PELLETS, AND RAISE YOUR CHAKRA.

ハッ

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YEAH, EXACTLY.

I'VE GOT MY SPECIAL RESERVE...

YOU DON'T MEAN ...

WAIT, CHOJI, YOU...

CHOJI...

GO ON, SHIKAMARU! TAKE EVERYONE AND GET OUT OF HERE!!

BUT LOOK, THAT'S...

IF WE LOSE SASUKE NOW, WE'LL BE JUST WHAT HE SAID WE ARE.

WHY IS IT WE BANDED TOGETHER ?!

ARE YOU NUTS?!

YOU CAN'T TAKE THIS GUY ON BY YOURSELF!

A NITWIT, TOWING AROUND A BUNCH OF SCUM-BAGS.

.....

.....

WAURR...

.....

.....

IT'S CHOJI'S PARTING GIFT.

EAT THIS... ALL OF YOU.

THEN I'LL TAKE SOME, THANKS, CHOJI.

YEP.

YOU CATCH UP TO US. YOU GOT THAT, CHOJI?

OKAY, LET'S DO IT!

HMPH...

HMPH ...

I'LL MAKE SHORT WORK OF YOU...

THEN I'LL HUNT THEM DOWN FOR DESSERT!!

FIZ

YOU THINK SO.

FIRST, THE GREEN PELLET, THE HORN-GAN!!

FU

THREE COLORS... THOSE AREN'T HYOROGAN MILITARY RATIONS PELLETS. THEN WHAT COULD THEY...

...!?

GOOD LUCK, GUYS!!
!!
AND YET... EVERY PILL HAS ITS SIDE EFFECTS. CHOJI... PLEASE SETTLE THIS FIGHT QUICKLY!
MM, THE SANSHO-KUGAN CARRY TREMEN-DOUS ENERGY.
GREEN, YELLOW, RED. THE TRIAD OF COLORED PELLETS, SANSHOKUGAN, CAN GIVE YOU EXPLOSIVE POWER.
HE BROUGHT ALONG THE AKIMICHI CLAN'S SECRET TRIPLE THREAT!
AHH! NO WONDER HE WAS SO SURE OF HIMSELF!
YOU THINK HE HAS A CHANCE TO WIN?
SHIKAMARU, BACK WHEN YOU WERE TALKING WITH CHOJI...
IT SOUNDED LIKE HE HAS AN ACE UP HIS SLEEVE.
YEAH, THAT SPECIAL RESERVE! WHAT IS THAT?
CHOJI...!!

フン…

189: FAITH...!!

ナンバー 189：信(しん)じる力(ちから)…!!

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HOW COULD HE...

IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE...

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HEEYAAA!!

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WHAT ?!!

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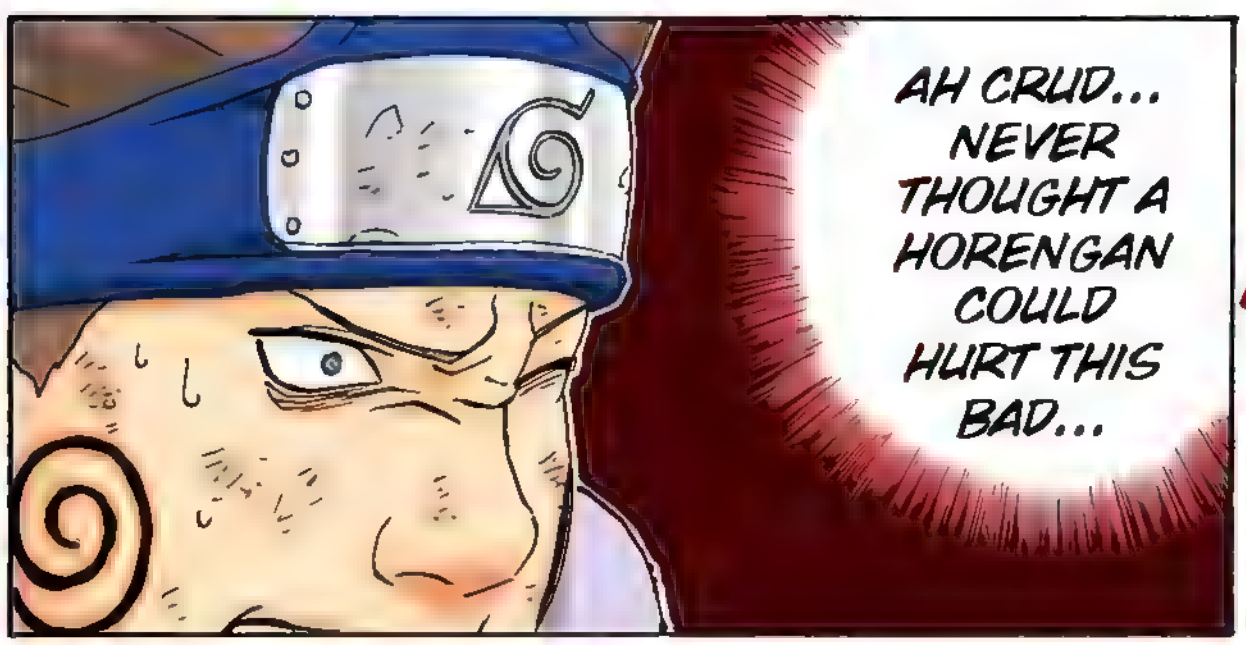
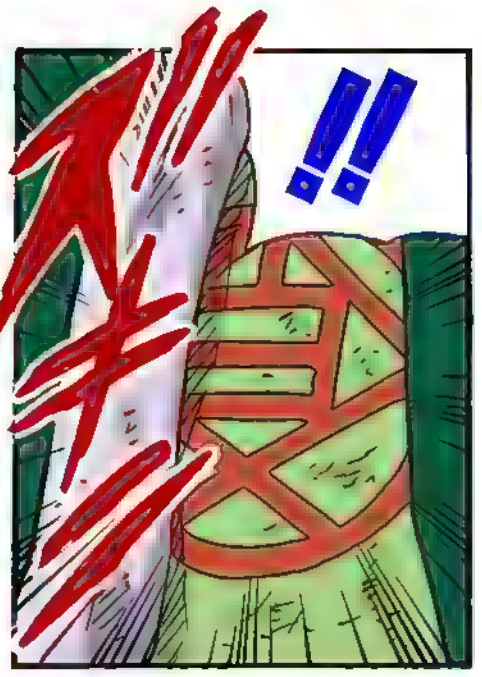
YAAHH!!

UGAH.


AH CRUD... NEVER THOUGHT A HORENGAN COULD HURT THIS BAD...


!!

MAKE SURE YOU FINISH BY THE GREEN ONE...

DON'T EVEN TOUCH THE RED...

CHOJI...

.....

WHAT'S AKAMARU GOT TO SAY?

YEAH, I WAS THINKING THE SAME JUST NOW.

WOOF ...

HE'S JUST WORRIED WHETHER THOSE PELLETS ALONE...

...CAN HELP CHOJI WIN AGAINST THAT MONSTER... THAT'S ALL.

YOU GUYS KNOW THAT AKAMARU CAN JUDGE AN ENEMY'S STRENGTH BY THEIR SCENT, RIGHT...

THAT'S THE NATURE OF BATTLE.

WE DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT POWER THAT MAMMOTH IS COMMANDING... CHOJI MAY WELL STAND ZERO CHANCE AGAINST HIM, AND YET...

IT'S TRUE... IF WE SIT BACK AND LOOK AT THE SITU-ATION...

.....

RIGHT NOW, I CALCULATE, UNLESS WE'RE PREPARED TO KILL ONE ENEMY APIECE, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO REACH SASUKE.

I DID IMAGINE THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO, IN WHICH EACH OF US MUST FIGHT SEPERATELY..

THAT'S RIGHT... WE KNEW FROM THE START WE WEREN'T OUT FOR A PICNIC. WE'VE STAKED OUR LIVES ON THIS MISSION.

THE ONE THING HE IS CONFIDENT ABOUT IS THAT HE'S THE WEAKEST LINK AMONGST US...

.....

CHOJI HAS A GOOD HEART...

WHAT HE LACKS IS CONFI-DENCE.

SURE...

.

.....

THAT'S WHY HE STAYED BEHIND. HE WANTED TO BE THE FIRST ONE TO BE USEFUL.

TELL US SOME-THING WE DON'T KNOW.

BAIKA NO JUTSU! THE ART OF EXPAN-SION !!

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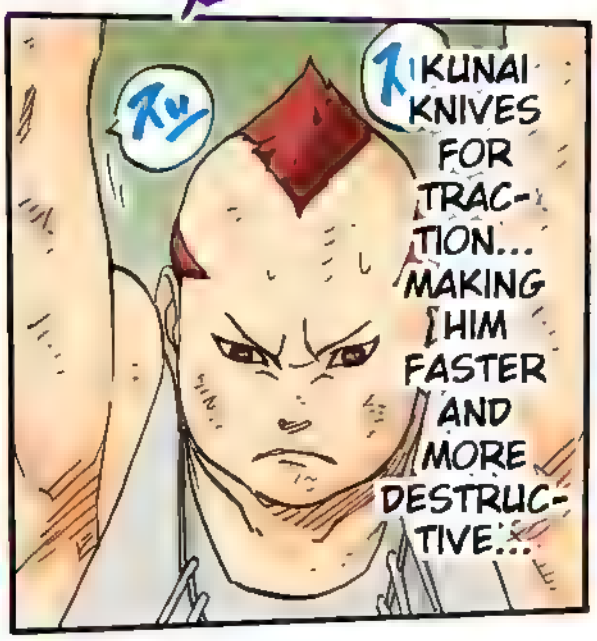
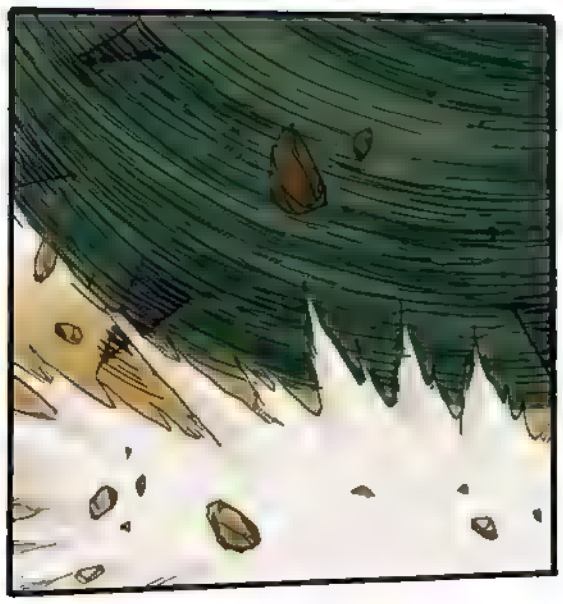

KUNAI KNIVES FOR TRAC-TION... MAKING HIM FASTER AND MORE DESTRUC-TIVE...



EARTH STYLE! TERRA SHIELD !!

!!!

!!

ドゴ

NGUH!!

WHAT ?!

!

不意

AA

HOSHO! SHATTER PALM!!

UGAH!

ボン

DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK, SCUMBAG!

ドゴ...

YOU ARE THE PAWN.

YOU GET FIVE PEOPLE TOGETHER, ONE OF THEM IS ALWAYS THE REJECT.

THE GUY THEY ONLY KEEP AROUND FOR A LAUGH. AND IN A PINCH, HE'S ALWAYS THE FIRST ONE TO GO, A PAWN AMONG KNIGHTS.

HMPH... YOU KNOW SOME-THING?

.....

YOU'RE JUST A PI...

THIS IS WHY EVERYBODY MAKES FUN OF YOU!

YOU SHOULD TRAIN A BIT MORE. SHIA-MARU'S A CHUNIN ALREADY.

CHOJI, ALL YOU WANNA DO IS EAT...

I...

IT'S TRUE... NO MATTER HOW HARD I WORK BEHIND THE SCENES ...

.....

SHEESH... THERE'S ANOTHER USELESS ONE.

I WAS THINKING, MAYBE, SHINO?

EXCEL-LENT, RIGHT?

HE'S THE BEST FOR ANY TEAM.

CHOJI'S BEEN MY TEAM-MATE FOR AGES.

!

.....

HMPH... ALL THE SAME, KONOHA MUST BE REALLY SHORT OF TALENT...

TO SEND OUT TRASH LIKE YOU TO PURSUE US.

OH, I'M SORRY. DID I TOUCH A NERVE?

...AND YOU'RE YOU.

HE HAD FAITH IN ME...

SHIKA-MARU

...

I MIGHT'VE GIVEN UP IF I WENT AGAINST YOU.

BUT IF WE WENT AT IT, YOU MIGHT BE STRONGER, RIGHT?

パキ

スッ

...YOU READY ?!

CHOJI.

HE ALWAYS BELIEVED IN MY STRENGTH...

SHIKAMARU ALWAYS HAD FAITH IN ME...

!

...FIGHT THIS ALONE!!!

THAT'S WHY HE LET ME...

STILL, FAR FROM A MAIN COURSE.

...! SOME PRETTY GOOD CHAKRA.

AA!!

RIGHT BACK AT YOU, FATSO!!

HERE I COME, FATSO!!

!?

BUBIN— BAIKA NO JUTSU! THE ART OF PARTIAL EXPAN— SION!!

ARM!!

NO FOOLING AROUND, SCUM— BAG!!

ドカッ

XXXX

RRAAA...

!?

BUT THERE'S SOME-THING ELSE I KNOW...

SURE, I KNOW WHAT YOU ALL THINK.

SURE...

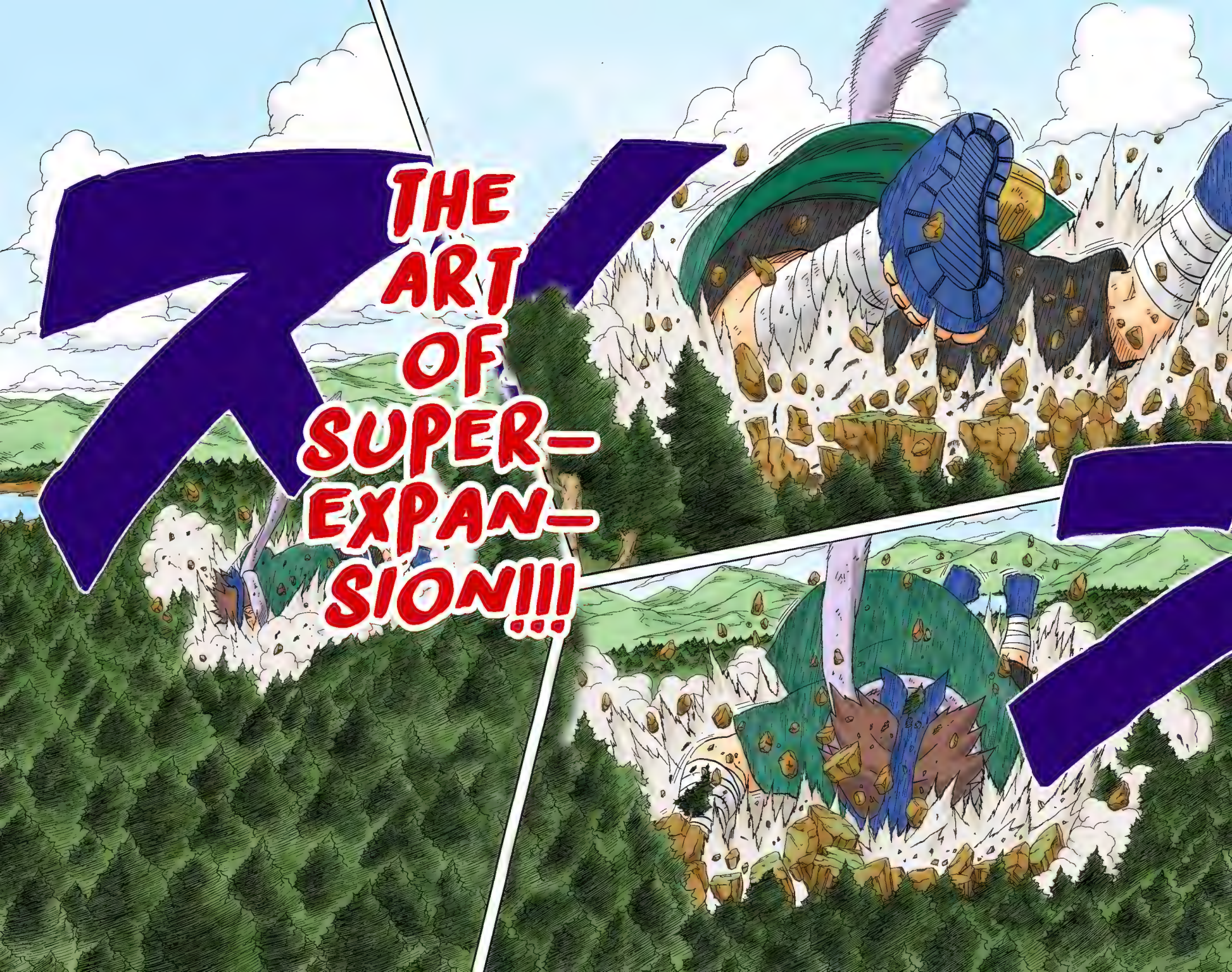
CHOJI IS BY FAR THE STRONG-EST.

THAT COMPARED TO ME OR NEJI, OR ANYONE ELSE HERE...

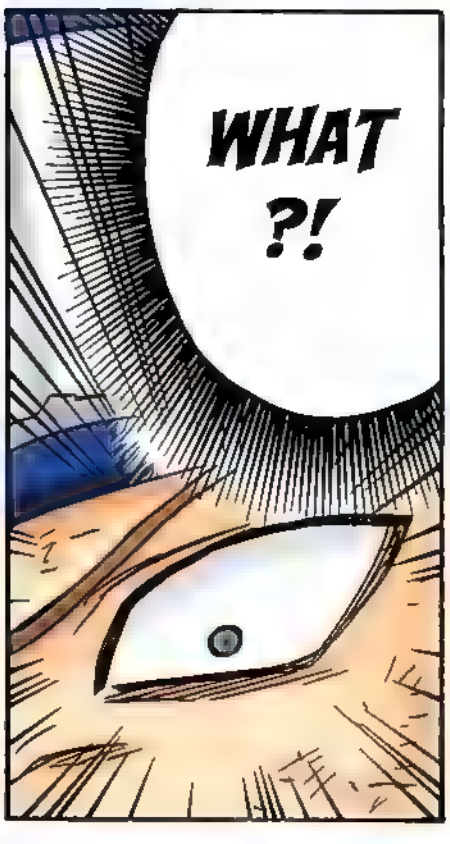
WHAT ?!!!

TAKE THIS !!

THAT'S... WHAT I BELIEVE.


THE ART OF SUPER-EXPAN-SION!!!

ガシ


WHAT
?!

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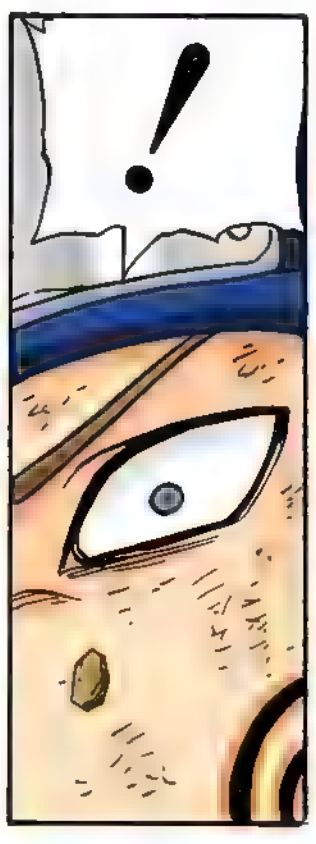
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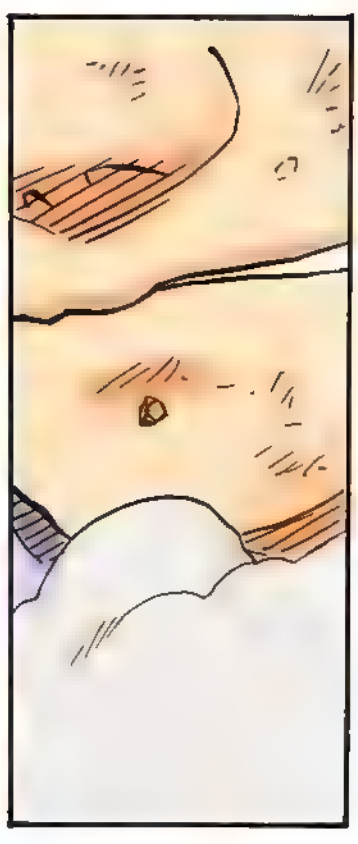
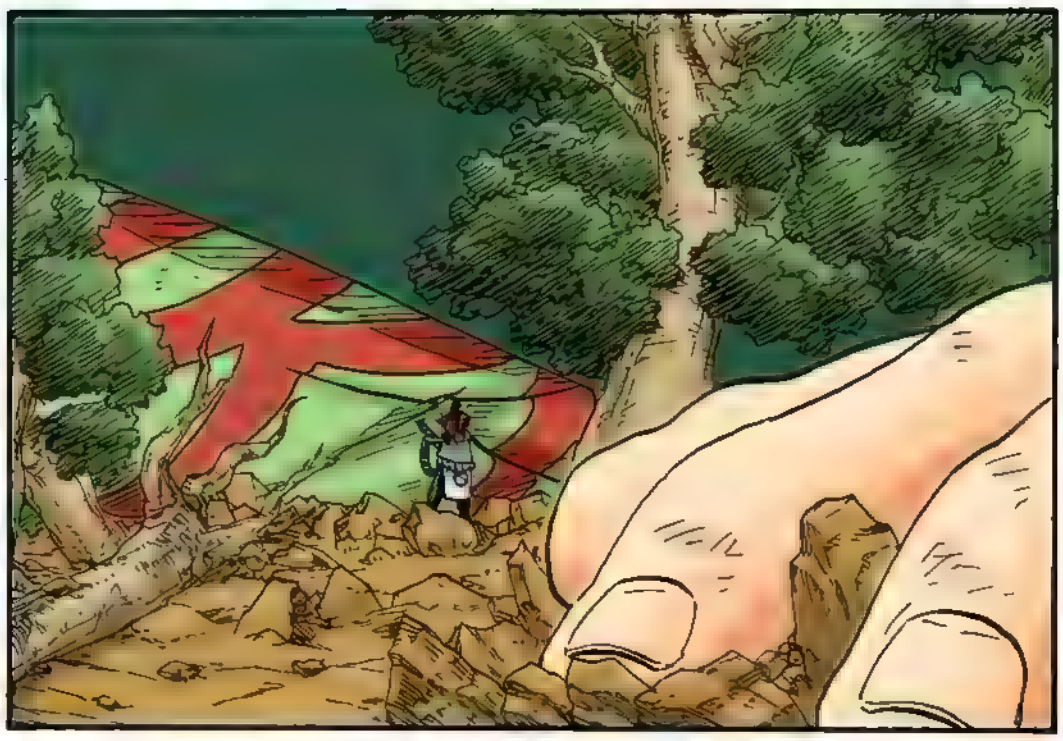


NEVER THOUGHT A LOSER LIKE YOU...
...WOULD FORCE ME INTO SECOND STATE...

190: UNFORGIVABLE!!

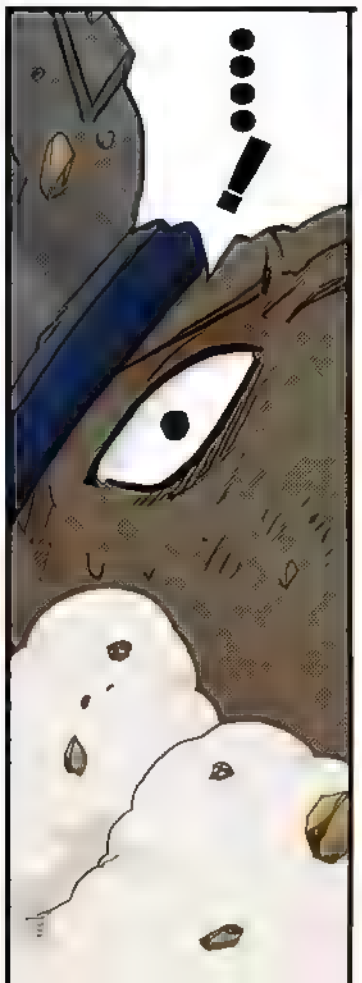
ナンバー 190：許(ゆる)せない!!

Ku



GUK!
!!
Ku

SHO-
GEKISHO!
PALM
SLAM!!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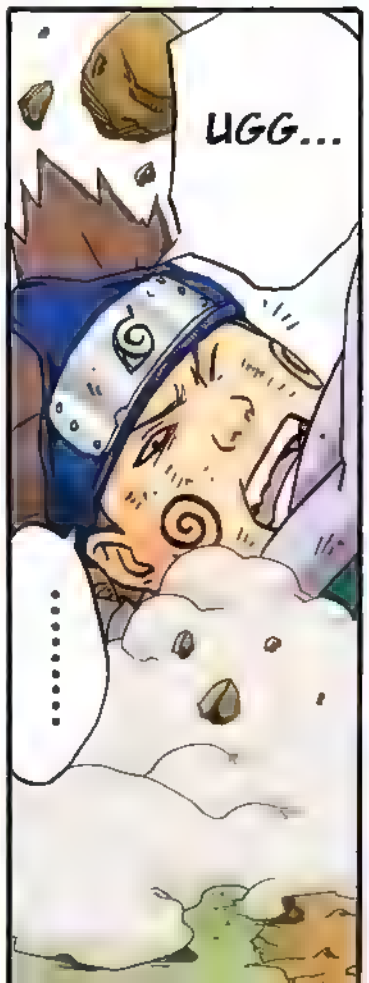
UGG...
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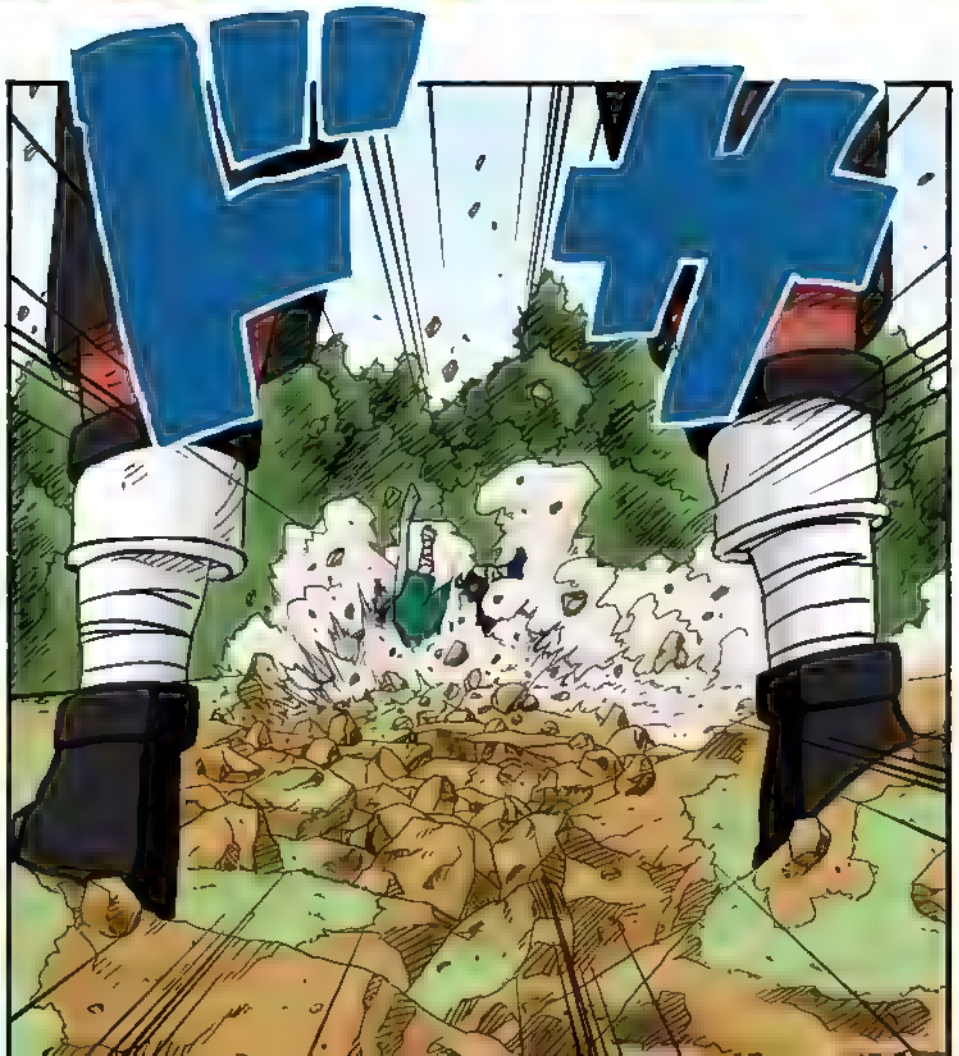
H'
H

IN THIS SECOND STATE, MY POWER IS TEN TIMES WHAT IT WAS BEFORE. I'M INVINCIBLE.
NOW YOU'RE FINISHED.

URK...

ガッガッ

SUCH AS A GREATER THAN EVER NEED FOR CHAKRA.

THERE ARE DRAWBACKS, OF COURSE...

ガラ

WHAT IS THIS... CHANGE?

ALL THAT'S LEFT IS THE RED TONGARA-SHIGAN CHILI PEPPER PELLET...

...

THAT KAREGAN CURRY PALLET... NEVER EXPECTED THE SIDE EFFECTS WOULD BE SO ROUGH...

IT'S TOO PAINFUL TO MOVE...

URRG... UGH...

オオ!!

IT'S DINNER-TIME...

FINALLY ...

I'LL DIE FOR SURE...

BUT IF I USE THAT ONE...

BESIDES, HE PROMISED ME...

.....

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カリ カリ..

YEP.

YOU CATCH UP TO US, YOU GOT THAT, CHOJI?

AND HE WILL CATCH UP TO US.

HE'LL BEAT HIS ENEMY...

SO LISTEN, GUYS.

.....

HMPH! 'COURSE HE WILL.

HE'S AN ABLE MAN WHEN HE TRIES.

YUP!

ダン

WHILE HE'S CATCHING UP, HOW 'BOUT WE GO PICK UP SASUKE!

WOO YEAH!!

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URK ...!!

HUF

HUF

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HARDLY AN APPE-TIZER...

HMPH... THERE ISN'T MUCH CHAKRA LEFT AT ALL NOW...

STILL, I'M FAMISHED ...

ポロ

GAH!

ズ!

WHAT, ONLY ONE LEFT?

ズッ

AS I WAS SAYING, YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A FILTHY, CAST-AWAY PAWN.

BUT DON'T WORRY... ONCE I'M DONE WITH YOU, I'VE GOT A HANKERING FOR SOME FRESH, JUICY KNIGHTS.

ﾆﾔﾘ

URGH ...

YOU'RE FAT, PATHETIC, SHUNNED, AND NOW... DEAD.

BUT WHY?

WE DON'T WANT YOU IN OUR NINJA GAME!

.....

しゅん...

YOU'RE TOO DUMB TO PLAY.

BECAUSE, WHATEVER TEAM YOU JOIN ALWAYS LOSES!

BUT HAVING A PAWN LIKE HIM IS THE SAME AS NOT HAVING IT AT ALL!

LOOK...WE WON'T HAVE AN EVEN NUMBER WITHOUT HIM.

...

YOU KNOW, THE ONLY REASON SHOGI IS ANY FUN IS BOTH SIDES ARE EQUAL.

.....

.....

.....

IS THAT SO?

AND... THE WHOLE AKIMICHI CLAN IS ALL FAT AND STUPID.

THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE SAYS...

AH, CHOJI. YOU'RE A SWEET BOY. SWEETER THAN ANYBODY.

SOONER OR LATER YOU'LL FIND A FRIEND WHO SEES THAT IN YOU.

WHEN THAT HAPPENS, YOU TREASURE THAT FRIEND. BECOME COMRADES, AND HAVE FAITH IN EACH OTHER. OKAY?

YOU'RE THAT GUY WHO...

!

!

HEY! AREN'T YOU...

I'M SHIKA-MARU... FROM THE NARA CLAN...

AND, UM, YOU'RE SITTING IN MY SPECIAL SEAT.

YOU'RE HERE FOR... CLOUD WATCH-ING?

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE NINJA GAME?

I LIKE LYING ON MY BACK AND WATCHING THE CLOUDS FROM THERE...

YOUR SPECIAL SEAT?

SO... WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

HEH... IT GOT TIRESOME, SO I QUIT.

AKIMICHI CHOJI, OF THE AKIMICHI CLAN.

CHOJI!

OKAY! LET'S JUST CHILL OUT AND LOOK AT THE CLOUDS TOGETHER ....

HEY... THANKS!

OH, HEY... I BROUGHT SOME SNACKS.

I CAN'T GO...

I'M SORRY, SHIKA-MARU....

ｲﾝ

ASSHO! CRUSH— ING PALM!!

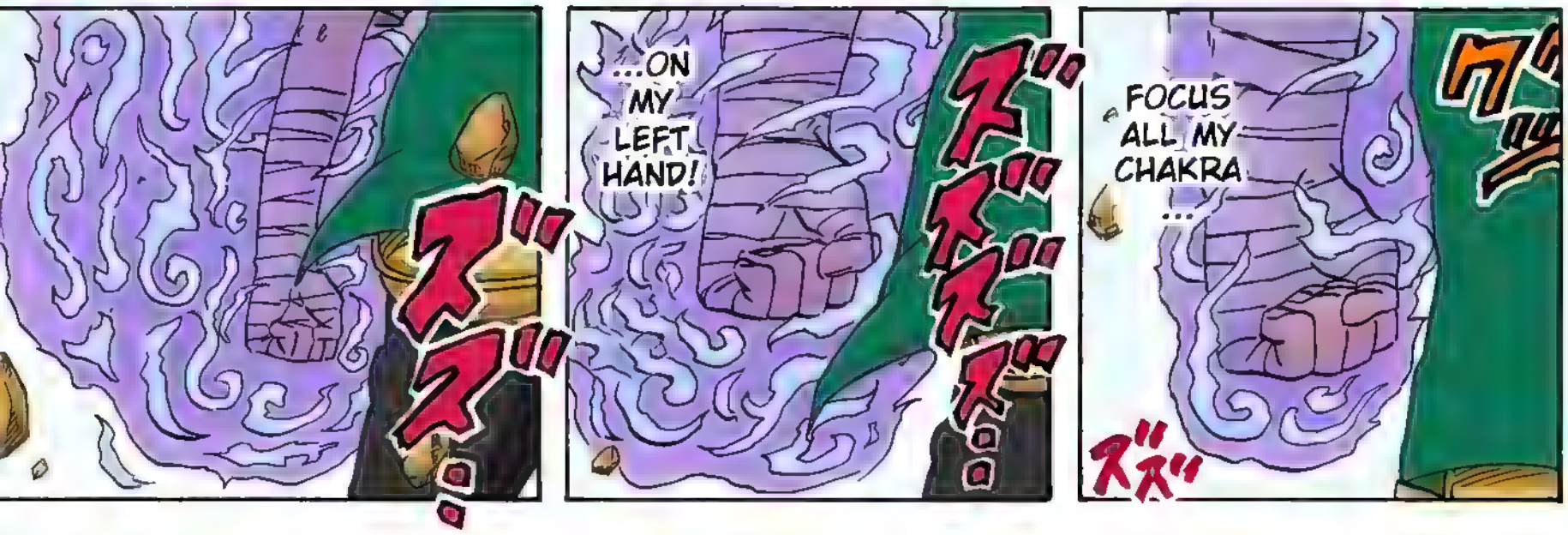
WHAT-EVER YOU'RE DOING, IT'S TOO LATE NOW!

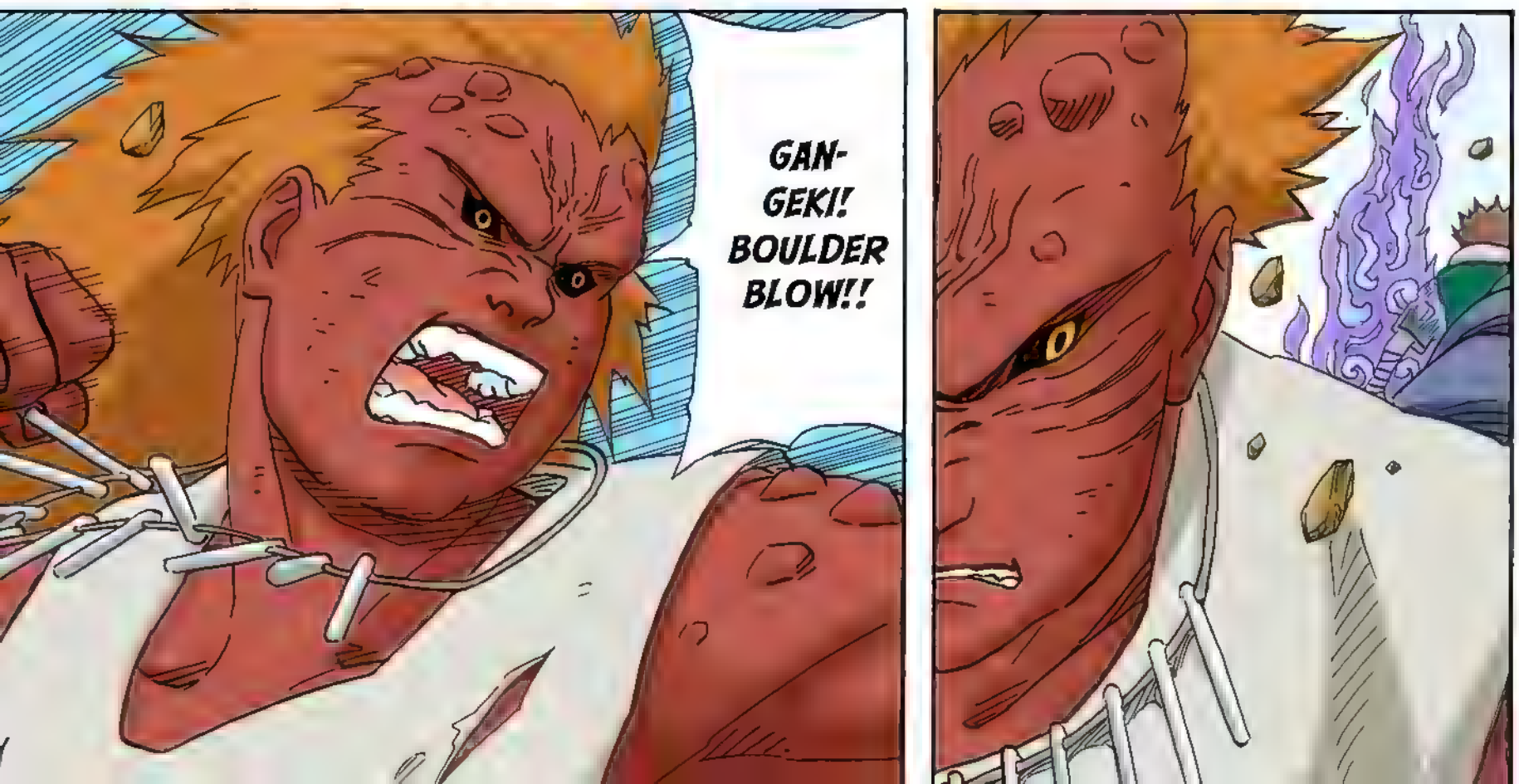
I WILL... DESTORY HIM!!

BUT IF IT KILLS ME...

YU

ZU


...ON MY LEFT HAND!
FOCUS ALL MY CHAKRA ...


GAN-GEKI! BOULDER BLOW!!

!!

IT'S NO GOOD.

I'M A HUNDRED TIMES STRONGER THAN BEFORE.

IMPOSSIBLE! HIS CHAKRA IS MASSIVE ENOUGH TO TRANSFORM HIM?!

UGAH!

WELL, THAT ELBOW...

...WAS FOR SNARFING THE LAST CHIP.

DON'T THEY SAY THERE'S NOTHING SCARIER THAN A GRUDGE OVER FOOD?

!

THIS ONE IS MORE SERIOUS, THOUGH.

W... WAIT!!

THIS... IS BAD...

ANOTHER BLOW...

AND HERE'S ...

I'LL BE NICE AND KILL YOU BEFORE YOU EVEN NOTICE WHAT YOU'RE SUFFERING.

WELL, SCUMBAGS... GIVEN THE SHADOW-LOVING, DEPRESSING MORON YOU WORK UNDER...

HAVING A NITWIT FOR A LEADER SURE MAKES THINGS TOUGH FOR HIS SUBOR-DINATES.

YOU REALLY ARE A SCUM-BAG, YOU KNOW THAT?!

...A THROWN-AWAY PAWN. I DON'T THINK I'M READY TO FORGIVE THAT.

YOU SEE, YOU CALLED ME...

LET'S NOT RUSH INTO...

WAI... WAIT....

.....

UNFOR-GIVABLE !!

THAT'S WAY WORSE THAN STEALING THE LAST BITE OF THE VERY BEST FOOD. IT'S WORSE THAN CALLING ME A FATSO, OR A SCUMBAG. IN FACT, IT'S UTTERLY AND ABSOLUTELY...

YOU INSULT MY BEST FRIEND?

BUT EVEN WORSE ...